legislation early next year that provides meaningful and much-needed reform to the bankruptcy system. Rampant bankruptcy abuse, particularly by the very rich, is unfairly having to subsidize those who do. This is our opportunity to do something about it. I would hope that my colleagues would take the time over these next few months and consider the desires of the American public. Let's do what is right and pass this important legislation early next year. Thank you.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me observe one of the problems we had in not being able to complete it even this week. Our bills will go in conference now. The amendments had indicated—or maybe all the amendments—indicated a willingness to have limited time agreements, we had, I know, at least a couple of Senators on this side who were not willing to agree to limit the time, therefore possibly tying up half a day or a day one a couple of these amendments.

We may still be able to work out something where we could have a short time agreed to on both sides and get a vote after the first of the year. But you reach a point, in the final days of a session, where motions are such that you just cannot get that kind of agreement.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the second session of the 106th Congress will convene, then, at 12 noon on Monday, January 24. We do not yet have absolute certainty when business will be in order. The quorum call will be on the Union Address the next day, although it is preliminary indicated. I believe that is the date we would expect to have a State of the Union Address; that is, Tuesday, the 25th. That could be postponed upon a request from the White House, but we will need to be back and in business in order to be here for that date.

So there will be a need for a live quorum to establish the beginning of the second session on Monday. A period of morning business will be in order for the remainder of that day. And this 12 noon cloture vote on Tuesday, January 25, would be the first vote of the second session of the 106th Congress.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their continued cooperation and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Let me say, too, we have a number of bills that are in conference now. I had an opportunity to discuss the schedule for next year, or some of the bills for next year, with the President. We have a number of bills that are in a position where we could get early agreement out of conference, including the trade bill on which we worked so hard. We spent 2 weeks getting that out for Africa and G&I. We could have maybe even done it the week before Christmas. Many things we were working on we could not get that completed.

We have the FAA reauthorization bill that good work has been done on, and a series of bills, including the juvenile justice bill, which we hope we can get early in the session next year. So we will continue to work on that.

I understand we are about ready to do a series of energy bills.

I suggest the absence of a quorum, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we have cleared a number of nominations on the Executive Calendar. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 228, 273, 292, 326, 327, 329, 331, 332, 333, 366, 377, 394, 404, 405, 406, and all nominations in the Coast Guard on the Secretary's desk.

I further ask consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations, and the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc: Magdalena Jacobsen, Francis Duggan, Ernest Dubester, and John Truesdale.

I further ask consent that the nominations be considered as motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session, and that the Senator from Vermont be notified that Judge Linn is in this list for confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Ivan Itkin, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Denver.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Neal S. Wolin, of Illinois, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

THE JUDICIARY
Richard A. Clarke, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE
Stephen Hadley, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2001.

Zalmay Khalilzad, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2001.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Paul Steven Miller, of California, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2004. (Reappointment)

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Irasema Garza, of Maryland, to be Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor.

T. Michael Kerr, of the District of Columbia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
Anthony Musick, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Alan Phillip Larson, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary of State (Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs).

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Joseph R. Crapa, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of United States Agency for International Development.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Susan M. Wachter, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Linda J. Bilmes, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Linda J. Bilmes, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Commerce.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT
Deanna Tanner-Olm, of Idaho, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2008.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK
IN THE COAST GUARD
Coast Guard nomination of Richard B. Gaines, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of October 12, 1999.

Coast Guard nominations beginning Peter K. Oittinen, and ending Joseph P. Sargent, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of October 27, 1999.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
John C. Truesdale, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2003.

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD
Magdalena G. Jacobsen, of Oregon, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2002.

Francis J. Duggan, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2002.

Ernest W. Dubester, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2002.

R. Michael J. Truesdale, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2003.