

occur, all without any intervening action or debate.

I further ask unanimous consent that the votes just described occur beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday and there be 2 minutes before each vote for explanation.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the vote, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, those conferees being the entire subcommittee, including Senators STEVENS and BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 4516

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the vote on the adoption of the HUD-VA bill on Thursday, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which the conference report to accompany H.R. 4516 was not agreed to be immediately agreed to, and the vote occur on the conference report immediately, without any intervening action or debate.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4733 VETO MESSAGE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message with respect to the conference report accompanying H.R. 4733 be considered as having been read, printed in the RECORD and spread in full upon the Journal, and the message then be referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Before the Chair grants this request, I would like to say to my colleagues that, unfortunately, the Senate does not have the votes to override this veto. I still believe strongly that the energy and water appropriations conference report should not have been vetoed and that there is a real threat of danger as a result of the provisions that are in controversy. The vote in the Senate was 57-37, which is a very strong vote. But at this point it appears there certainly would not be sufficient votes to override the President's veto.

I regret the veto. The Senate needs to proceed now to complete these appropriations bills, and therefore we have had to go through the process as just be outlined in these previous unanimous consent requests. Therefore, this consent addresses the immediate concern of the veto message entering the Senate Chamber.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, while Senator DASCHLE is here, he may want to make comments. I thank him again for working to help get this agreement worked out, as Senator REID certainly has been helpful, and Senator BOND, chairman of the committee, and Senator MIKULSKI, ranking member of the HUD-VA appropriations subcommittee; they have done good work.

As a result of these agreements, we will be able to act tomorrow on the HUD-VA appropriations bill, the energy and water appropriations bill, as will be modified to put in the agreed-to language with regard to section 103, and we also will then have the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill included in this process.

We will continue to work after this vote at 4:30 to get an agreement with regard to the time and a vote on the Defense authorization bill. We are working through the difficulties which are probably on this side; maybe on both sides. We will try to work that out, and also a time when a vote will occur on the Agriculture appropriations conference report.

I will have to communicate some more. I thought it important to go ahead and get these agreements lined up.

I remind Members, we have two votes scheduled at 4:30.

Mr. DASCHLE. I commend the majority leader for his work in reaching this agreement and compliment and thank Members on both sides of the aisle.

We have to be realists as we try to finish our work at the end of this session. Being realists means we don't get it exactly the way we want it. Obviously, many Members have serious problems about the way we are proceeding. We, nonetheless, realize we have to get the work done. While it may not be pretty, it will get the work done. That is ultimately what we are here to do.

To clarify what this agreement does with regard to some of the concerns that some Members have raised, first and foremost, this allows for the completion of the Treasury-Postal bill because we address the IRS concern raised by the administration. We are very pleased that issue has been resolved and we are now able to go forth at least from the point of view of the administration. Senator BYRD had the same concern I did about procedure. This allows us technically to have taken up TPO on the floor, as Senator BYRD has strongly suggested we do and as some Members proposed be done. This allows us to do that, and we will do it in concert with the consideration of HUD-VA.

Obviously, as I think everyone now knows, section 103 of the energy and water bill is very problematic for the administration and for some of us. This understanding takes out section 103.

We have accommodated a lot of the concerns in reaching this agreement. We will have a couple of amendments offered by Senator BOXER who has concerns about the HUD-VA bill. This reaches the level of understanding we have with regard to her concerns, as well.

Clearly, this is a compromise taking into account both the procedural as well as the substantive concerns many Senators have had on both sides of the aisle, and it accommodates those concerns as best we can under these circumstances.

Again, I end where I began by complimenting the majority leader, by expressing my appreciation for his work in trying to reach an accommodation of some of these issues. I hope we can do more on other bills that are yet to be considered.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. While the two leaders are on the floor, there is so much acrimony on the Senate floor, and there will be more in the future. At a time when we have accomplished a great deal procedurally, you two should be commended. It has been difficult to arrive at this point. This is one of the times where we worked with some cooperation. There will be more difficulties before the session ends, but the two leaders are to be commended for the work done today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I know under the unanimous consent agreement Senator THOMPSON would have the time until 4:30 when it was agreed the vote would be set. I ask unanimous consent to speak on the sex trafficking bill for up to 5 minutes.

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

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, rather than not using the time, I thought it wise to go ahead and use this time to visit about this important vote that will be taking place. There may be some people who are just now focusing on what is happening.

We have a base bill with sex trafficking. The Violence Against Women Act is the base of the bill, and it is put together in an overall piece of legislation with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Aimee's law, Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, and