

last night about 7 o'clock when the majority leader came to the floor. To say that he was upset is an understatement. I heard him clearly that there will be no more windows for the end of this session.

I also say to the leader that it would be a big help to those of us on the floor if we could shorten the time of the votes. We wasted tremendous time yesterday. We wasted at least 2½ hours on votes when people weren't here. We waited 20, 30 minutes for Senators on both sides. I believe that if a vote is completed within 15 or 18 minutes, we should go on to something else. If people miss a vote or two, everybody's record will be down a little bit, and it will be the same for everybody.

Mr. LOTT. Obviously, the Senator from Nevada is correct. We do allow these votes to drag on too long, and we should be prepared to cut them off after the 15 minutes and the 5-minute overtime. On both sides we try to be understanding, but the more we are understanding, the more it is abused by our colleagues. So, for today, I will work with Democrats and Republicans and be prepared to cut these votes off. It could save us a lot of time.

Let me say to the Senator from Nevada, we would not be making the progress we have made on this and other bills without his diligence, his presence on the floor, and the hard work he does. I appreciate that. Last night, even though I was disturbed about the timing because of commitments that have been made, we worked that out and we got a lot of good work done last night. I thank those who were involved.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 2340

Mr. LOTT. I have a unanimous consent request I would like to propound now. I believe the Senators involved in this are on the floor. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the consideration of the NCAA gambling bill, S. 2340, and following the reporting of the bill by the clerk, the committee amendments be immediately agreed to.

I further ask consent that there be 4 hours of debate on the bill, to be equally divided in the usual form, and only relevant amendments be in order during the pendency of the bill.

Finally, I ask consent that following the conclusion of the time and the disposition of any amendments, the bill be advanced to third reading and passage occur, all without any intervening action or debate.

I know Senator REID will want to make some comments. This is an issue that has been pending for some time. We have tried to find a way to have it as an amendment on other bills. I know Senator BROWNBACK has been diligent and also very much interested in this

matter, as are other Senators, including Senator McCAIN.

Senator REID has indicated he would like to work with us on it. But I will let him speak for himself.

Part of what I am doing here is this: I made a commitment to the sponsors to try to find a way to consider this on some bill, or freestanding at some point. In order to complete work on the Department of Defense authorization bill, now that we have worked through the disclosure issue, this issue is one we also need to find a way to address. That is why I am asking for this consent.

Mr. President, I submit that unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I know the deepness of feeling of the Senator from Kansas, Mr. BROWNBACK. I have spoken to him personally. I understand how he feels about this issue. I also feel very strongly about this issue.

I am willing to work with the Republican leadership and my leader to try to work out some kind of freestanding bill so this matter can be fully debated. This is not an appropriate time to do it. I say respectfully to the Senator from Kansas and the majority leader that we simply can't do this now.

I have been here since Thursday on the Labor-HHS bill that is before us. I arrived home late last night, as everyone else did. We are trying to carve out amendments. This is just not an appropriate time to do it.

I say to my friend from Kansas that I respect how he feels about this. There are strong feelings on this issue. This is an issue which should be debated. At an appropriate time, we will do that. Therefore, I object.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, will the Senator from Nevada yield?

Mr. REID. I would be happy to yield. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader has the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, will the Senator withhold his objection?

Mr. REID. I would be happy to withhold. I withdraw my objection.

I also say this: Seeing the Senator from Massachusetts here floods my mind with the work that needs to be done in this Chamber. We need to introduce the minimum wage bill. We have the Patients' Bill of Rights and prescription drugs. We have things to do on education. In addition to my personal situation, I know the Senator from Massachusetts is concerned about those bills.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield for just a brief observation, as I understand the request of the majority leader, this does not include any request to bring back the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Did the Sen-

ator from Nevada hear that clearly? I did not hear that clearly.

Mr. REID. That is true.

Mr. KENNEDY. That is not to be included.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I did not include that. But I would be happy to work up an agreement where we could bring that back and have germane amendments on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, have an agreed-to list of amendments that are germane, so we can deal with that important issue. I will be glad to work with Senator KENNEDY or anybody else to try to get that agreement.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, if the majority leader will be willing to yield for a moment, I appreciate his offering this unanimous consent request. I note that we have considered a number of items on various bills—whether it has been items on prescription drugs or different items that have come forward.

This is one that has cleared through the committee by a strong vote of 13-2 with wide bipartisan support. The bill itself has broad bipartisan support across the country. It is an important issue. We are having a lot of difficulty with regard to our student athletes being involved in gambling themselves and referees in sporting events being involved in gambling. The NCAA and many of the sporting groups are saying this is a problem.

Bigger than all of that, the lead gateway for college students getting into addictive gambling is through sports wagering. What we are trying to deal with is the one place in the country where this remains a problem and where it remains legal.

I think we need to have a bill up and a vote.

I ask my colleague from Nevada—he has been so persistent on a number of different issues to bring up to the floor—when can we get this one up so we can have a set timeframe for debate? If the Senator from Nevada would like to have a long period of time, that is fine. I am willing to go as short as an hour equally divided. But can we get some idea of when we could do this?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the reservation, I will not reply to the substance of the statement made by my friend from Kansas, but there are merits on both sides of this legislation. I would be happy to work with leadership to find a time to bring this bill to the floor.

In the meantime, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.