I say that because when we talk about these three elements of public policy that require an urgency on the part of Congress—dealing with counterterrorism, trying to provide lift to an economy that is in trouble, and writing an energy bill that makes us less vulnerable to terrorist attacks and the shutoff of the supply of oil from the Middle East, all of these represent an urgency that Congress must tackle.

We must do this in a way that makes sense. This can’t be business as usual. It can’t be, “The President believes this and we believe that. Let’s have a fight for 5 or 6 months.” It must be taking from the President and from Members of Congress the best of what all have to offer and from that developing a public policy that will strengthen our country, strengthen our country in the area of fighting terrorism, in trying to give our economy the lift it needs at this point and in making us less dependent on a source of energy that is vulnerable.

All of this requires an agenda that is critical to our country.

Could I talk about other things? Yes, there are plenty of other things yet to do. We know we need the kinds of things we were debating before the terrorist act last week. We were debating campaign finance reform, a Patients’ Bill of Rights, the cost of prescription drugs. All of those things are important. None of them have lost their importance in the scheme of trying to do the people’s business in the Congress. But there is an urgency to several of the elements of public policy that we must pay attention to first: terrorism, the economy, and energy.

I, for one, pledge to this President and my fellow Members of the Senate that we must come together in a way that we have never before done—at least in this Congress—to grab policy issues and try to find the best that everyone in the Chamber has to offer and work with the President to make the changes necessary to strengthen America.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the managers’ amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 1575) was agreed to.

Mr. DORGAN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF ROBERT BONNER

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to urge the Senate to act very swiftly to confirm the nomination of Robert Bonner to be Commissioner of Customs.

I remind my colleagues that Customs is one of the first lines of defense we have in our country. They inspect baggage and the goods of people coming into the United States. They help to assure that we are safe by inspecting any item that might threaten our national security and public welfare. They do a good job.

Last week’s attacks demonstrate how important it is that Customs and all of our agencies have our full support. We must make sure that the agency is as robust as we possibly can.

What is the problem? The problem is that the Finance Committee has reported out Mr. Bonner to be Customs Commissioner, and someone on the Senate floor is holding him up. We cannot put him in place because there are