

week, perhaps midweek, late in the week, yesterday, or today. I know that was thwarted by the filibuster on the motion to proceed to the bill that the Senate was prepared to debate. The majority leader was unable to make the motion to proceed to the farm bill. The filibuster we have had and cloture vote that was required now puts us into next week.

The majority leader indicated it is still his intention to file a cloture motion to proceed following the disposition of the bill that is on the floor.

Is that correct?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the Senator is absolutely correct. I have noted on several occasions my intention to move to the farm bill just as soon as we complete our work on the railroad retirement bill. It can be next Monday or Tuesday. It can be whenever we finish. But we will move to that bill next. We have to move to it.

These are must-pass pieces of legislation that have to be done. We can take them in any order. But it is my intention to follow through with the order that I have already announced, which is to complete our work on the farm bill next.

We will have the Defense appropriations bill, the stimulus bill, and the terrorist insurance bill. All of those have to be addressed.

But as I noted—I see the chairman of the Agriculture Committee in the Chamber—the farm bill will be the next bill after the railroad retirement bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield for just another moment, that is a reassuring answer. I know how strongly the majority leader feels about the need to write a farm bill.

I observe that the House of Representatives has passed a farm bill. We have now passed one out of the committee under the leadership of Senator HARKIN. We need to get it to the floor of the Senate and then to conference.

The goal here is to get a bill on the President's desk for signature. This is about family farmers hanging on by their financial fingertips and struggling to survive. It is our obligation to get this done.

I know it is not the fault of the majority leader. It was his full intention to bring that to the floor. It would have been on the floor today had we not faced the filibuster.

I wanted to, once again, ask. And I received the answer that I expected I would. The majority leader is a strong advocate of family farms and the need for a better farm program. I am deeply reassured by that answer. I look forward to being here with the majority leader and with the chairman of the Agriculture Committee fighting hard for a farm bill that will give family farmers in this country a decent chance to survive.

I thank the majority leader for his answers.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the Senator from North Dakota and I have been through a lot of legislative battles over the years on rural issues. As he has noted, nothing is more important to rural America than passage of this bill to allow us to go to conference first and to allow us to resolve the outstanding issues that remain between the House and the Senate membership on farm policy so we can get the bill to the President in time to provide all the assurance and confidence we can to farmers and ranchers all over this country. We understand their economic plight.

I note, as the Senator from North Dakota has on several occasions, that last month—the month of October—we saw the single biggest 1-month depression in prices that we have seen in all the time the Department of Agriculture has been keeping records. We have never seen the prices plummet as dramatically in 1 month as we saw them plummet last month.

If there is no other reason to move forward on farm legislation than that, it would be enough.

I am hopeful that people understand the urgency of the issue—the urgency of the issue of completing our work on the bill in time to go to conference, resolve our differences, and enact it into the law.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. DASCHLE. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I congratulate the majority leader for defining our schedule. It makes our lives more definite. I think we have the schedule outlined. As I heard the majority leader say, we are going to be in session starting Monday with votes, perhaps over the next weekend, and the next weekend until we finish.

Regarding the Agriculture bill—the farm bill—I think the Senator from Iowa has done an outstanding job not only in the product that came out of the committee but his willingness to take on issues that are so important. Everybody in America is affected by this farm bill. The conservation provisions in this bill are the best we have ever had, and they are getting better.

I think this farm bill is so important because of the problems the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Iowa have. The farm bill is so important. This bill affects the whole country. It is not just a farm bill.

I also say to the majority leader that I was given a statement by Senators as I walked into this Chamber indicating that Alamo and National car rental companies have filed for bankruptcy. This is really astounding. These two large rental car companies filed for bankruptcy.

I have had a number of conversations and meetings with the distinguished

majority leader about companies and individuals who depend on tourism. For 30 States in the United States, their No. 1, No. 2, or No. 3 most important economic force is tourism.

I know the majority leader has stated publicly—and I appreciate it very much—that one of the items we are going to be looking at in an economic stimulus package is how the tourism industry can be helped. It is in such desperate shape—helping rental car companies and other entities that so depend on tourism.

I am very happy that there has been a framework developed. We can move forward. This is not inventing the wheel. In fact, we have done this before on very important issues since September 11. It will go down in history as remarkably good legislation. We have done it on four occasions. We did it with the appropriations for New York City, plus the \$20 billion for added defense for the country. We did it with airport security and antiterrorism. There is one other that I can't remember.

That sets the framework for doing some good work on the stimulus package.

I hope the leader will do something about this. I believe we will be very successful in working it out.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished assistant Democratic leader for his comments. He is absolutely right. The tourism industry has been very hard hit. This is yet another indication of the difficult time they are having. I wasn't aware that these two companies declared bankruptcy. But it certainly illustrates yet another instance of just how difficult a time many of these companies are experiencing.

So I appreciate his comment and especially appreciate so much his sensitivity to the agricultural situation. He noted he does not have a lot of farmers, but he has been extremely supportive and understanding about the farm situation. I appreciate that very much.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. I say to the majority leader, we don't have a lot of farmers; we have a lot of people who eat the food.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT SECURITY AND PENSION REFORM ACT OF 2001

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I move to proceed to the railroad retirement bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, if the Senator will yield, I believe we have no further requests for time on the motion to proceed. We are ready to vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote, and 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 report the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 10) to provide for pension reform, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the pending substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no pending substitute. There is no pending amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2170

(Purpose: To modernize the financing of the railroad retirement system and to provide enhanced benefits to employees and beneficiaries.)

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I have an amendment at the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], for Mr. HATCH, for himself and Mr. BAUCUS, proposes an amendment numbered 2170.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in the RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I now ask for the yeas and nays on the pending substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2171 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2170

(Purpose: To enhance energy conservation, research and development, and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes)

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr.

BROWNBACK, proposes an amendment numbered 2171 to amendment No. 2170.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in the RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the pending Lott amendment:

Trent Lott, Frank Murkowski, Robert Bennett, Phil Gramm, Sam Brownback, Don Nickles, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Larry Craig, Jon Kyl, Chuck Grassley, Pete Domenici, Mitch McConnell, Judd Gregg, Conrad Burns, Craig Thomas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the Daschle for Hatch and Baucus substitute amendment No. 2170 for Calendar No. 69, H.R. 10, an act to provide for pension reform and for other purposes:

Paul Wellstone, Richard Durbin, Byron Dorgan, Harry Reid, Jon Corzine, Hillary Clinton, Blanche Lincoln, Jack Reed, Jean Carnahan, Mark Dayton, Carl Levin, Tim Johnson, Bill Nelson, Charles Schumer, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Mikulski, and Tom Daschle.

Mr. DASCHLE. 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. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on Calendar No. 69, H.R. 10, an act to provide for pension reform and for other purposes.

Paul Wellstone, Richard J. Durbin, Byron L. Dorgan, Harry Reid, Jon Corzine, Hillary Clinton, Blanche L. Lincoln, Jack Reed, Tom Carper, Tim Johnson, Daniel Inouye, Christopher Dodd, Ron Wyden, Jeff Bingaman, Joseph Lieberman, John Breaux, Paul Sarbanes.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, just for explanation to all Senators, we have now moved to proceed to the railroad retirement bill. The distinguished Republican leader has offered an amendment for which there will be a cloture vote at 5 o'clock on Monday. Following that vote on cloture, there will be a vote on cloture on the bill at approximately 5:30 on Monday as well. So under the current arrangement, there will be two votes on Monday at about 5 o'clock.

There will be, hopefully, a very good debate tomorrow on the Lott amendment. There can be debate tonight on the amendment or on the bill. But I hope Senators will use the time that is now allotted for the debate to express themselves and to participate in whatever debate may be required. But those cloture votes will occur at 5 o'clock. And there will be no other votes until that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, if the distinguished majority leader will yield to respond to an inquiry, I thought also we would have a vote on the Transportation appropriations conference report at some point in the sequence on Monday.

Mr. DASCHLE. That is correct. The Senator is right. I appreciate his reminding me. If the Senate has been presented with the papers on the Transportation conference report by Monday, it is our intention to have a vote on the Transportation conference report as well.

I am told the House is planning to act tomorrow. I know there has been a little bit of a debate. I don't know if

that has been resolved. But if the papers arrive, it is our intent—and I had announced it earlier—to bring up the conference report on Transportation as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, if I could be heard with regard to the situation as it now exists for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle actually, what has transpired over the past few minutes procedurally is that Senator DASCHLE has offered the railroad retirement substitute to a House bill.

That had to be done to get us on the railroad retirement subject itself. Then, as is in order, I offered an amendment to the substitute. So that will be the issue that can be debated, along with the railroad retirement bill, if Senators so desire.

Let me talk about the content of the amendment that was filed on my behalf as well as Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator BROWNBACK and others.

Regardless of the merits of the railroad retirement bill, I had hoped that the Senate would stay focused on appropriations conference reports, the defense appropriations bill, and the stimulus package that would create economic growth and jobs creation in this country. I am pleased that now an effort is under way to get a conference negotiation going on the stimulus package. That movement yesterday afternoon affected the decision that was made earlier today not to fight the motion to proceed on the railroad retirement bill.

My question is, why are we moving to bills that are not an emergency, not related to appropriations and the stimulus package or even the reinsurance issue? It seems to me we should focus on those urgent and emergency issues that need to be addressed as a result of the events of September 11 and since then, before we go out for the holiday season, for the Christmas period.

That has not been the case. Now we are on the railroad retirement issue. There are other issues we believe urgent and need to be addressed and should be addressed. That is why this amendment is the Murkowski energy bill, basically H.R. 4, the House-passed bill, that we believe and have been believing since June needed to be brought up in the Senate. We need a national energy policy. That needs to be broad-based. It needs to address the need for additional production of oil and natural gas. Clean coal technology needs to be moved forward, the use of nuclear power, alternative fuels, transmission line problems, as well as conservation, which is a very important part of this package.

We see right now circumstances that really bother me. We are dependent on OPEC oil, Russian oil, and Iraqi oil, approaching now well over 50 percent of

our energy needs. It is imported oil, and that is extremely dangerous. Just last week we saw where the OPEC countries were lobbying others, including Russia, to cut their production so that the prices could be driven back up. Unbelievably, or perhaps gratefully, we see that the Russians resisted that and said, no, we are going to continue with our production.

Apparently now they have come to some sort of agreement and I guess there will be some reduced production and prices will go up some. But we are on a yo-yo. This past June and the June before that, we saw prices shoot up on gasoline inexplicably and probably unjustifiably in some instances. So we don't have a national energy policy. We were told we would do it later. Then there were the September events and October had other things we were working on. Now we are told we will get to it in January or February.

Every day we lose puts us at risk one more day. We should have a full debate about a national energy policy. We are going to have it. This amendment is offered to the underlying bill because this is an issue that needs to be voted on by the Senate. We are going to see who believes energy is something we need to do or whether there is a potential threat there.

This is not only a national security issue; it is an economic issue. If you want to help the railroads with some of their problems, let's have a reliable energy policy. Let's reduce the cost of what they take to run the industry if you want to help farmers in America. Let's deal with the cost of the energy they need all the way from producing ammonia to diesel. So this is an economic issue.

Remember this: If the OPEC countries decided to cut us off, we would be on our knees economically in less than 30 days. America doesn't depend on anybody else in the world for anything else for our existence but energy. We can not have that. The simple solution, is to have the debate. Let's have the vote.

By the way, this doesn't displace the railroad retirement bill. It would be added to it, and so we would have an opportunity to pass a railroad retirement bill, presumably one that might be amended substantively as we go forward, with an energy package.

The second part of the amendment I offered also puts a 6-month moratorium on cloning. It doesn't say we won't have it for therapeutic research. It doesn't say what we will do. It says "time out here." We have a lot of serious questions that we need to ask and have answered and think about what we want to do. So it is the energy bill and the 6-month moratorium on cloning. This should make for a good debate. It is long overdue.

In the case of energy, in the case of cloning, if we don't do it now, we won't

be able to do anything until February or March, and this issue will march forward with uncertainty and concern. Senator BROWNBACK has been advancing the need for us to take some action to have the moratorium. The House acted months ago, overwhelmingly, in a bipartisan manner. We will have the opportunity to do the same here.

I urge my colleagues to take time tonight and tomorrow and Monday. Let's talk about these two issues. We should not invoke cloture on this amendment. We should have a vote. We should not stop the debate. We should have a vote on the substance itself, and then we could move to the underlying bill and could get it done.

Instead of taking shots at each other, we could actually address three big issues in one swoop. That is why I offered the amendment. It is also to serve notice that if we keep going off track on what we need to do to get out of here, other issues will be brought up.

This is the Senate. Wonderful place that it is, no one person and no one party dictates what we can do. Marvelously, any Senator can offer any amendment on any subject he or she wishes at any time. Lots of times it takes 60 votes, but that is the way it works. Therefore, we will have an opportunity now to have a full debate on energy and on cloning as well as railroad retirement.

I thank the Chair and my colleagues for the opportunity to briefly describe what we are doing. I am sure Senator MURKOWSKI and members of the Energy Committee will be here to describe what is in this energy package. Senator BROWNBACK is waiting to describe the details of his moratorium.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have spoken to the minority leader, and I now ask unanimous consent that we go into a period of morning business. We want to be as lenient as we can. I know the Senator from Alaska wants to speak for an extended period of time. Others also want to speak. Therefore, we will have the 10-minute limitation, with the understanding that people can ask unanimous consent to speak for any period of time they want.

Again, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak