

balance so a farmer would not be encouraged to plant one crop over another; that they truly could plant for the market and not because one had a higher loan rate than another, that type of thing. So we spent a great deal of time working to balance it, and we did come out of the committee with a bipartisan vote. It was not unanimous. I admit it was not a unanimous vote on the commodities title, but it is a measure of how much work this committee did—I do not mean just this member but Democrats and Republicans did—on this bill. Every single title got a unanimous vote, as I said, with the exception of commodities, and I believe we will be able to work that out.

I have not seen it yet, but I guess Senator ROBERTS and Senator COCHRAN will be offering an amendment on the commodities title to change it. We will have a debate on that. I have not seen it, so I cannot debate it. We will look at it. We will consider it.

Now, Senator ROBERTS and Senator COCHRAN offered an amendment in committee. That approach was turned down. Whether or not this amendment will be the same, I don't know. I have heard it will be changed, but I have not seen it. We certainly will debate it. I hope we have a reasonable time limit on debate. I hope we don't drag this out longer than necessary. All who have been on the committee understand the different aspects of our commodity programs. I don't think it will take a huge amount of time to debate.

I believe we have a good, sound farm bill that is in the interests of all Americans—not just one area, not just one group, but all of America. I believe some of the things we have done in conservation, which is the cornerstone of this bill, are charting a new path for our farmers, a way where they can actually receive income because they are being good stewards of the land. I believe the new energy title will go a long way to helping make the United States more energy independent in the future.

The new rural equity fund we have set up is going to help bring business, provide the kind of venture capital we need. The money we provide for broadband access to our small towns and communities can be the highway to the new technologies so businesses can locate there.

All in all, it is a good farm bill. Is everything in it exactly as I would like it? Probably not; I would probably make some things different. But everything of this nature represents compromise and consensus. It came out on a bipartisan vote. All titles except one were unanimously approved. It represents a good compromise, a good consensus, a good balance between interests. That is why we are here—to work across party lines, to try to work together, knowing I can't have my way all the time and you can't have your

way all the time, but together we work these things out. That is what we have done in the farm bill.

I know we will not have votes today, but I hope tomorrow when we come in we can proceed on amendments. I hope we can have some time limits. I hope the other side will agree. We tried to get an agreement earlier today to say that at some point tomorrow afternoon all first-degree amendments would have to be filed. That was objected to. We will revisit that tomorrow and perhaps reach an agreement. With healthy debate and amendments tomorrow, and perhaps Wednesday, we should be able to finish this bill sometime on Wednesday. I see no reason at all to carry it any further than that, and that is with meaningful debate on amendments.

I encourage all Senators who have amendments on the farm bill to please get them filed so we can look at how many there are and perhaps reach an agreement on time limits to get this bill out of here by sometime late Wednesday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROCKEFELLER). The Senator from Wyoming.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, proceed to executive session no later than December 14 to consider Calendar No. 471, the nomination of Eugene Scalia to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor. I further ask consent that there be 3 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form. I ask consent, following the use and yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nomination and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. Was this cleared on both sides?

Mr. THOMAS. I am not certain of that. I only know this nomination has been waiting now for over 200 days.

Mr. HARKIN. I have to object if it has not been cleared on both sides. Without that assurance, I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— S1731

Mr. HARKIN. That being the case, I ask unanimous consent all first-degree amendments to the farm bill be filed no later than 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. THOMAS. I object. I am afraid there is not time for all amendments. I object.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA AS IT WINS THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, this past Saturday, the University of North Dakota's Fighting Sioux won the division II national championship football game. Anyone who watched that game on ESPN marveled at the game itself. It was one of the most exciting football games I have ever watched. It was decided in the last couple of seconds. The two teams played wonderful football. They played Grand Valley State of Michigan in division II. Grand Valley State had a 14-to-10 lead with just over 2 minutes left. The University of North Dakota actually had a fourth down with 50 seconds or so left at about the 41-yard line. It didn't look good. With 60 yards to the goal line, they passed and went down to the 1-yard line. And they drove it in.

It was one of the most exciting finishes I have ever seen.

As an alumnus of the University of North Dakota, I wanted to congratulate the coach and the team and say how proud we are of the division II football champions.

We have been national champions in division I in hockey many times. We won our national championship in women's basketball, and now in division II football.

The University of North Dakota Sioux had a wonderful day on Saturday. I congratulate these young men who made all of North Dakota proud. And I congratulate their coach.

As a graduate of the University of North Dakota, I am enormously proud of what they have done.

To recap, rare are the athletic programs that can claim the extraordinary success that the University of North Dakota has had over the last