

HELMS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), and the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MILLER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 375 Leg.]

YEAS—61

Baucus	Daschle	Landrieu
Bayh	Dayton	Leahy
Biden	DeWine	Levin
Bingaman	Dodd	Lincoln
Bond	Dorgan	Lugar
Boxer	Durbin	Mikulski
Breaux	Edwards	Miller
Brownback	Enzi	Murray
Burns	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Campbell	Feinstein	Nickles
Cantwell	Fitzgerald	Reed
Carnahan	Grassley	Roberts
Carper	Hagel	Rockefeller
Chafee	Harkin	Sarbanes
Cleland	Hutchinson	Stabenow
Clinton	Inouye	Thomas
Cochran	Jeffords	Warner
Collins	Johnson	Wellstone
Conrad	Kennedy	Wyden
Craig	Kerry	
Crapo	Kohl	

NAYS—33

Allard	Hatch	Schumer
Allen	Hollings	Sessions
Bennett	Hutchison	Shelby
Bunning	Inhofe	Smith (NH)
Byrd	Kyl	Smith (OR)
Corzine	Lieberman	Snowe
Domenici	McCain	Specter
Ensign	McConnell	Stevens
Frist	Nelson (FL)	Thompson
Graham	Reid	Thurmond
Gregg	Santorum	Torricelli

NOT VOTING—6

Akaka	Helms	Murkowski
Gramm	Lott	Voinovich

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is now in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to go back to the farm bill to offer an amendment

and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MILLER). Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is an objection.

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

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

PASSING A FARM BILL

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I filed an amendment. I know I cannot call it up tonight. I hoped to be able to lay down this amendment this evening. At this point, I can't. But hopefully we will be able to work out a means by which I can lay that amendment down tomorrow morning before the cloture vote tomorrow afternoon.

The amendment I filed this evening is the bipartisan farm bill that had been filed earlier by Senator LINCOLN, myself, Senator HELMS, Senator MILLER, Senator SESSIONS, Senator Landrieu, and Senator BREAUX. It is truly the only bipartisan farm bill we have had out here, with four Democrats and three Republicans. It is basically the House bill that was passed by the House of Representatives.

At this late date, I have done everything I can to move a farm bill forward. I again reiterate my strong support for passing and completing a farm bill this year.

Farmers in the State of Arkansas have been very clear with me on this issue, just as I think they have been clear with most Members of the Senate. They want to see a farm bill completed before we leave for Christmas.

When the farm bill debate seemed to be dragging, I urged my colleagues to move forward. We introduced a bipartisan bill closely resembling that which was passed in the House in hopes that it would start the Agriculture Committee moving forward. I commend Senator HARKIN, the chairman, for pushing a markup late in this session. After all of the time and energy that was spent on a lot of issues important to this country—the war on terror—Senator HARKIN was determined that we get the bill out of committee. I supported that. I supported the Coch-

ran-Roberts proposal and turned around and supported the chairman's proposal. I thought we had to get something out this year. If it took compromise on my part, I was willing to make it.

I was not the only Republican member of the Agriculture Committee to support the Harkin commodity title. I don't think it is necessarily the best policy, but it is far better than what our farmers are dealing with right now.

When the farm bill came to the floor, I was assured that now was the time we would seek the final compromise to get this farm bill passed. However, the process has broken down along partisan lines. We have not been able to come to a consensus.

I am deeply disappointed that we are at risk of now leaving without a farm bill. I don't blame my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle. I don't blame my colleagues on the Democrat side of the aisle. But it is time we achieve a compromise. We must not dig in our heels at this point.

I believe the House bill is the best possible chance we have of getting a bill to the President. Again, this bill is sponsored by four Democrats and three Republicans. It was one about which I talked with the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. It could be conferred very quickly—in a matter of probably an hour's time—and we could have a bill to the President. While all of us may have our preferences, this is our chance to get something to the President this year.

I voted for cloture repeatedly, and I am going to continue to vote for cloture. I have crossed the lines to do so many times. Some have suggested where that line is right now.

I know my farmers want a farm bill. In an effort to move that process forward, I offered this bipartisan alternative. I filed it tonight. It is cosponsored by Senator LOTT and Senator SESSIONS. I am hopeful the cosponsors of the legislation when it was first introduced will join in support of this bill and that we will be able to get a bill signed into law.

Even if we were able to get cloture tomorrow and get it passed at this late date, there is no possible way the differences between the Harkin bill and the House-passed bill could be reconciled in time to help our farmers.

This past weekend I heard the farmers in Arkansas saying if we don't get it done before the new year, it is too late—in effect, that they are now going to their bankers and making the loans. They are making their preparations for crops next year. To wait until after we come back on January 23 before we put together a conference to begin to try to work out differences in the House and Senate bill is not good news for the farmers of this country. The best chance we have of getting this bill signed into law this year is to adopt