

up the bill that is already on the calendar.

Mr. NICKLES. I know.

Mr. BAUCUS. And strike out the substance of it; take it up and pass it back with these provisions.

I might answer my friend, this is the procedure we have to follow in order to pass these extenders.

Mr. NICKLES. Further reserving the right to object, again I will object if it is striking the House bill. The House passed a bill with a good vote. I do not remember exactly what it was. If it is in addition to the House bill, I would not object.

I ask my colleague—and I think I hear the Senator saying he is not going to—is it not the intent of the Senator not to pass the House-passed bill? I was hoping we could make a deal.

I might mention we might have to notify a few other Senators before we do this by unanimous consent.

Mr. BAUCUS. I see. It is now more clear to me what is happening.

Mr. NICKLES. My intention was, if we want to repeal the death tax and pass the extenders, this Senator would have no objection. I am sure we could whip it and see if there would be no objection.

Mr. BAUCUS. I understand. I am sure the Senator would love to do that, and I am also sure there would be other Senators who would object.

Mr. NICKLES. The Presiding Officer might like for us to do that.

Mr. BAUCUS. Given all the objections that approach will take, I was asking the Senator to consider the approach I am suggesting.

Mr. NICKLES. Further reserving the right to object, if the Senator is not going to agree to pass the House-passed language that passed in April with the extenders language, then I ask the Senator to modify his request and let us take up the stimulus package that did have the extenders, that did have many other provisions that would have helped the unemployed, that did have some things that would help stimulate the economy, that did some things that would help New York in addition to what we have already done today. So I ask my colleague to modify his request, let us take up the stimulus package, the H.R. 3529, which was received from the House.

I ask unanimous consent that the request be modified so that at first the Senate would proceed to consideration of H.R. 3529, which is the stimulus package received by the House; the bill be read a third time and passed, with no intervening action or debate.

I would add, before the Chair rules, the bill has extender language that my colleague from Montana is requesting and therefore it would accommodate his request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I believe the Senator made a unanimous consent

request that would change my unanimous consent request, at least as I understand it. I ask the Senator if he will modify his request to substitute the stimulus bill that passed the Senate Finance Committee instead of the bill that passed the House.

Mr. NICKLES. I cannot agree to that. I do not know if we are playing one-upmanship. I would like to pass the bill that passed the House. So I will not agree to that.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, it is clear what is happening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Montana?

Mr. NICKLES. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

BIOTERRORISM

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, there are many important issues on the agenda and the one that was being discussed is one of the most important, but not the only. There is other business that needs to get done before we leave, which is an issue that is of great concern and an issue I wanted to bring to the attention of the Senators.

Before I get into that subject area, which relates to families and children and adoption, I want to thank the leadership. I thank Senator KENNEDY and Senator FRIST, the main sponsors of the bioterrorism legislation, for agreeing in a colloquy submitted on behalf of myself and Senator MCCONNELL from Kentucky to add a provision that will help all hospitals to call on FEMA funds that may be available in the event of another terrorist attack when hospital resources are called on to assist victims of those attacks or if the hospitals are harmed themselves. I very much appreciate it because it seemed to be an oversight in the legislation.

As that bill moves to conference, I particularly thank them for their sensitivities to provide funding for all hospitals in the event that that situation were to occur. Of course, we are all hopeful it does not and are working very hard to see it does not, but I thank them for agreeing.

TWELVE FAMILIES NEED CAMBODIAN VISAS TO BRING THEIR CHILDREN HOME

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I know the Senator from Ohio and others are waiting to speak on other matters before we leave, but last night there was a troubling exposé done on a very unfortunate circumstance, and that circumstance involves 12 American families who are stuck in Cambodia because they are unable to obtain visas for their newly adopted children. They

are unable to get those visas to come back to the United States safely with these children to celebrate what would have been a joyous homecoming on these holidays.

We are all getting ready to join our families and loved ones in our home States for Christmas and for the holidays. It is not just parents being reunited with children and children with parents, but grandchildren, aunts, uncles, and cousins. This holiday season, as we have all said, is going to be even that much more special because of the challenges before our Nation and the events of September 11 and subsequent events that make us realize how important our families are to us and our loved ones.

We are mindful as we leave today, happy with some of the successes we have had, of the pain and suffering that will be felt during this holiday season by 3,000 families and many more who were directly affected, who will not have a loved one present for the holidays.

For the record, there is not anything I can offer at this moment—no piece of legislation, no fix that I can offer at this moment—but it is my intention to work with all the Senators and to work with the INS, to work with the State Department over the course of the next several days and weeks and months, if necessary, to make sure these American families can get the visas, take their children safely and come to the United States.

According to the INS and according to the story and the details I know, there is concern that there is fraud and abuse in Cambodia and therefore that is why the visas were not issued. I acknowledge that, unfortunately, in the whole area of adoption, both domestic and international, there is some fraud and abuse. We need to do everything we can to make sure that fraud and abuse is stamped out. This Senate, this House, and this Congress, with the help of President Clinton as well as President Bush and both State Departments in the last administration and this administration, are working diligently on that.

We have passed a Hague treaty, an international treaty aimed specifically at making the system of adoption more transparent, eliminating the middleman, reducing time, and encouraging people to adopt children from all over the world because there are so many children who need a home and so many families who want to add children to their families, to build and strengthen their families through adoption.

Denying visas to 12 American families who pay their taxes, good community citizens, people who are doing everything they think is right, and then denying the visas is, I suggest, not the right approach. I am hoping our INS, with our new Commissioner, Mr. Ziglar, who we all know very well and