

the consideration of the conference report.

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#### NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2000—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now renew my motion to proceed to S. 2557. I will notify all Senators as to the exact date on which I intend to file cloture on this very important tax conference report. I note that I will not do that today. In the meantime, this action I have just taken will allow me to file that cloture motion at a later date.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the time between now and 6:30 remain in control of the majority leader for morning business, as provided under the previous order.

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

Mr. LOTT. At the request of Senator GRASSLEY and others who wish to be heard, we are asking to extend the time from 6 until 6:30.

I believe there will be a voice vote at the conclusion of this time.

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

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

#### THE LEGAL IMMIGRATION FAMILY EQUITY ACT

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, it is highly unfortunate that the Clinton administration is apparently trying to play politics with immigration during the final days before the Presidential election.

The Congress has tried to work in good faith with the President to help immigrants who play by the rules, and have not been treated fairly by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Unfortunately, the President does not seem to be interested in a reasonable compromise.

President Clinton has demanded blanket amnesty for any alien in the United States in 1986 or before. This is not limited to legal immigrants. It includes illegal aliens. It does not matter to the President whether they have tried to follow the law in getting their status adjusted during all these years, or whether they flagrantly violated the immigration laws. The President just wants to give blanket amnesty. Also, the White House does not know how many would be eligible for amnesty under their plan, but the number would clearly be in the millions. This is irresponsible policy.

The National Border Patrol Council, whose members are border patrol agents, has strongly criticized the President's proposal. They said, "In addition to punishing those who abide by

our immigration laws and rewarding those who disobey them, a new amnesty would encourage innumerable others to break our laws in the future. This is not sound public policy."

The Congress has a better way. The Legal Immigration Family Equity Act, which is part of the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations legislation, would allow aliens in the United States before 1982 to secure amnesty if they had tried to comply with the immigration laws. This would provide assistance to about 400,000 aliens who were wrongly denied relief through administrative action of the I.N.S.

Moreover, the legislation would assist hundreds of thousands of applicants who are on a waiting list to be united with their families in the United States. This bill would greatly help promote family unification.

As this legislation demonstrates, the Congress should help immigrants who help themselves and try to follow the rules. However, far too often, the roadblock that legal immigrants run into has nothing to do with the Congress. It is caused by the Administration, and more specifically the I.N.S.

The record of the I.N.S. in helping legal immigrants during this Administration has been very poor. I have grown very frustrated in recent years trying to help citizens of my state who are trying to work through the I.N.S. and follow the law. Sometimes, when I make inquiries about an applicant's case, the I.N.S. does not even respond to my repeated requests. When I do get a response, it is often handwritten and hard to read or understand. It may even be inaccurate. Also, the I.N.S. has actually lost files about which I was inquiring. If federal elected officials receive this type of treatment, the difficulties that applicants face while trying to work with the I.N.S. alone must be many, many times worse. I have contacted the Attorney General about these chronic problems, but I have not even received the courtesy of a response.

With a new Administration next year, I hope we can fundamentally reform the I.N.S. We must make it responsive to the people.

In the meantime, the President should cooperate with the Congress, and promote reasonable solutions to the problems faced by legal immigrants. At the same time, he should devote his attention to addressing the fundamental problems regarding how immigrants are treated by his own administration every single day.

#### GEN. RICHARD LAWSON, USAF: IN THE STYLE OF CINCINNATUS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the great success and continuing strength of the United States as a republic is due in no small part to the willingness of our citizens to be soldiers and, no less important, of our soldiers to be citizens.

One such soldier-citizen is General Richard L. Lawson, late of the Air

Force of the United States, now on the verge of a second retirement, this time from a productive career in public life.

On active duty as General Lawson, he held positions of trust at the highest levels of responsibility in planning and executing the military elements of U.S. foreign policy during times of great tension.

As Dick Lawson, the envoy plenipotentiary from the most basic of America's basic industries to the councils of government that include this Senate, he has made useful and durable contributions to policies that make the Nation more secure and energy independent.

Richard Lawson is, in fundamental ways, exceptional, if not unique.

He is one of few individuals to hold every enlisted and commissioned rank in the military structure from enlistee of bottom rank to the four-star grade that signifies overall command. He may well be the only one to have done this between two services—to rise step-by-step from buck private to regimental sergeant major in the Army National Guard of Iowa; and then, when commissioned into the Air Force, from second lieutenant to general.

Highlights of General Lawson's Air Force career include the following: military assistant at the White House under two Presidents; Commander, Eighth Air Force; Director of Plans and Policy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff; U.S. representative to the military committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance; Chief of staff at Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe; and, finally, command of the day-to-day activities and deployments of all services in the U.S. European Command, the deputy commander-in-chief.

During his span of service, some important national and international developments included the following: the making of plans and the acquisition of means to re-establish U.S. strength and flexibility and deterrence; the restoration of cordiality among the NATO allies.

General Lawson left active service in 1986. Early the next year, while figuratively behind the plow, like Cincinnatus, he was approached by a delegation of coal industry leaders. They found him, in fact, clearing undergrowth on his acreage in the Virginia countryside. They called him again into service, and he again responded.

In the 14 years since then, Dick Lawson has presided over the unification of what once was both a profusion and a confusion of voices that sought to speak for mining. He first blended together within the National Coal Association all elements of the coal industry. More recently, he joined the many elements of mining represented by coal, metals and minerals producers. With the union of the coal association and the American Mining Congress to form the National Mining Association, two voices became one.