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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith a Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Undermining the Revenue Systems of the Contracting Parties, signed at Paris on August 31, 2004 (the "Convention"), signed at Washington on December 8, 2004 (the "Protocol"). Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol was negotiated to address certain technical issues that have arisen since the Convention entered into force. The Protocol was concluded in recognition of the importance of U.S. economic relations with France.

The Protocol clarifies the treatment of investments made in France by U.S. investors through partnerships located in the United States, France, or third countries. It also modifies the provisions of the treaty dealing with pensions and pension contributions in the United States, France, or third countries. It also modifies the provisions of the treaty dealing with pensions and pension contributions in the United States, France, or third countries. It also modifies the provisions of the treaty dealing with pensions and pension contributions in the United States, France, or third countries.

The Protocol makes these changes in a manner as possible, to the urgent needs of the human environment.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1786) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

Mr. GRASSLEY. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SECTION 1. EMERGENCY USE OF GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2005 AND 2006.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Transportation may make grants grants under part B, subtitle VII, of title 49, United States Code, for emergency airport improvement projects on or after the date of enactment of this Act for fiscal years 2005 and 2006—

(1) from apportioned funds under section 47114 of title 49, United States Code, for an airport described in subsection (b)(1) or (2) of section 47115 of such title; and

(2) from funds available for discretionary grants to such an airport under section 47115 of such title.

(b) Eligible Airports and Uses.—The Secretary of Transportation may make grants under subsection (a) for—

(1) emergency capital costs incurred by a public use airport in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, or Texas that is listed in the Federal Aviation Administration’s National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems of repair or replacement public use facilities that have been damaged as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita; and

(2) emergency operating costs incurred by an airport described in paragraph (1) as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

(c) Priorities.—In making grants authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

(1) airport development within the meaning of section 47102 of title 49, United States Code; and

(2) terminal development within the meaning of section 47104 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) Modification of Certain Otherwise Applicable Requirements.—For purposes of any grant authorized by subsection (a)—

(1) the Secretary may waive any otherwise applicable limitation on, or requirement for, grants under section 47102, 47103(a)(17), 47110, or 47119 of title 49, United States Code, if the Secretary determines that the waiver is necessary to respond, in as timely and efficient a manner as possible, to the urgent needs of the region damaged by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita; and

(2) the United States Government’s share of allowable project costs shall be 100 percent, notwithstanding the provisions of section 47109 of that title;

(3) any project funded by such a grant shall be considered to be an airport development project (within the meaning of section 47102 of that title), except for the purpose of establishing priorities under subsection (b) of this section among projects to be funded by such grants; and

(4) no project funded by such a grant may be considered, for the purpose of any other law or regulation, a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1786 be placed directly on the calendar.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 29. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to the time of the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to executive session and continue consideration of Calendar No. 317, John Roberts to be Chief Justice of the United States; provided further that the time until 10:30 be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we will resume the Roberts nomination tomorrow for a short period of debate. The debate from 10:30 to 11:30 has previously been allocated to the two managers and the two leaders. At 11:30 tomorrow, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Judge Roberts to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. I remind all Senators that the majority leader has asked all Senators to be in the Chamber by 11:20 and seated at their desks for this historic vote.

Following that vote, the Senate is expected to begin consideration of the Defense appropriations bill. Additional votes will occur on Thursday and Friday this week.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the time controlled by the minority.