

would also expand in terms of amount and number and capability the ability to get these loans? We are getting more of these loans than anyone in any other situation would have gotten before. I wonder if the Senator would object to that change?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Can I answer that?

Mr. VITTER. No.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Can I answer that?

Mr. VITTER. Again, reclaiming my time, I would simply ask directly if the Senator could either object or not object—let me know—and also help us identify any specific objections that may exist on the minority side.

But in closing, Mr. President, I would just say, again, it is very clear to me, having spent a week working on this, that we either do this today and tomorrow or we do nothing and go home for 10 days and give no relief to these communities and these parishes which so desperately need the help. I vote for doing something. I vote for leading. I vote for helping in a meaningful and concrete way the people of southeast Louisiana and urge all my colleagues to please join me in that effort.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, there are discussions going on concerning the future of this bill and what time we may be able to vote and dispose of the bill. I did try to go to third reading to make sure we would not have amendments coming in here at the last minute that would require Members to come back into the Senate to vote at this time.

I want to state that I do not have any problem with the exchange between the Senators from Louisiana. They do have a very difficult proposition. I am not going to get into that at this time. But I will say this: The arrangement that the junior Senator has made is much better than we got after the great earthquake in Alaska in 1964. I think people ought to realize that while the numbers of people involved in this great disaster from Katrina and the disaster of Rita—we have had massive disasters such as our earthquake and our great flood and the typhoons in Hawaii. This is not something that is new. The number of people may be greater, but the type of disaster is not any greater.

I would hope we would have a chance to finish the conversations that the leadership is having and we can find some way to deal with this situation and let people know what time, and if, we are going to be allowed to vote on this very important bill that should go to conference before we go home.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the calling of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. STEVENS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is objection.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COLEMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of Senate proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's Senate proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2005

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 8:15 a.m. on Friday, October 7. I further ask consent that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 2863, the Defense appropriations bill. I further ask consent that following the leader's remarks, Senator LANDRIEU be recognized to speak until 9:15. I further ask consent that immediately following her remarks, and with no intervening action or debate, all time under cloture then be considered expired, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Before we recess, I will yield to the Senator from Louisiana for 5 minutes before we close.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Senator from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Chair.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it has been a very long day. I am hoping, as

this day continues into the evening hours, as we continue to work on the underlying bill, which is the Defense appropriations bill, to have an amendment dealing with Hurricane Katrina in a way this Congress might respond to this urgent need. I thank the Senator from Alaska for his patience through this day because the issue that is before us really is not an amendment on the Defense bill. It is a separate issue but needs to be handled before we leave, in my opinion.

That is why I have stayed here throughout the day and have been here, of course, throughout the week, in many meetings and phone calls, and now in time on the floor throughout the day, to try to find a way to get some immediate help to our cities and parishes and counties along the gulf coast. It looks like there is a possibility that still might be the case.

But because of the lateness of the hour, really for the staff that has been here so long, I am going to agree to continue to work through the night, allow the staff to take a recess, and spend some time on this, as I have throughout the last few hours, working with my colleagues, particularly Senator LEVIN from Michigan, who has put in a tremendous amount of time, other Senators, Senator CARPER from Delaware, Senator CLINTON, Senator DURBIN, Senator REID. And Senator FRIST has been here for a while. Of course, Senator VITTER was here earlier trying to get through this process, with the

specific focus of mine being to try to get our State in the same situation that other States have been put in when they needed help.

We are not quite there yet, but we may yet get there by the time we close the debate in just a few hours. But, really, the staff has done more than they should be asked, to stay this late.

We have tried four or five different compromises in the last 8 hours, and we are not quite there yet. But we may be there in the morning when the Senate comes out of recess.

I am going to continue to work through the evening to see if we can find some sort of solution so that our four States—Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas—can be treated in the same way with the same respect as other States have in disasters in the past.

I thank the Senator for his patience throughout the evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Louisiana.

PROGRAM

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, we will reconvene at 8:15 tomorrow morning. Following additional remarks by Senator LANDRIEU in the morning, we will vote on passage of the Defense appropriations bill. That vote will occur concerning at 9:15. Following that vote, we