that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1 and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S.4, as passed by the Senate on March 13, 2007, be inserted in lieu thereof; that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, with the above occurring with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the leadership has been continuing to consult with our colleagues who are working on this legislation, and I have the impression, from talking to Members who are involved, that they have done a lot of good work and perhaps have made some progress that will lead to being able to get a conference and act on it. They have been discussing some very significant issues.

One of the problems that I recall is that this legislation went well beyond what was just in the 9/11 Commission recommendations, and that is a major part of the problem. There was some other language that was of great concern and could lead this bill to be vetoed by the President, but he does not want to veto it, and we want to get a bill that we can agree on that can become law. We all want to strengthen our homeland security, but, as quite often is the case in the Congress—the House or the Senate or the both of us—we put language in these bills that is problematic and, in my opinion and others, counterproductive. So we don't want to get to a point where we can't get an agreement or get a bill signed into law and have to start back at square one.

I wish to emphasize that the impression of the leadership—and that is whom I am speaking for here—is that they are working and making progress, and we hope they will continue to do that and get a good, productive, and bipartisan agreement.

At this point, I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I, of course, am very disappointed my Republican colleague has chosen to object to this request on moving forward on the 9/11 Commission recommendations bill. The minority stated yesterday that they had a problem with the bill. We agreed to take that out of the bill. I don't know how much more we can do.

It appears to me there are forces within the Republican Senate that simply don't want this bill enacted. This is really too bad. As my friend—and we have worked together on this Senate floor, my friend, the junior Senator from Mississippi, we have worked on this floor together for many years. When he was the majority leader, we worked together in detail on so many different issues, so this is not directed toward him. But I do say that there have been procedural roadblocks thrown up in front of virtually everything we have tried to do in the Senate this year. I was hoping we could reconsider this obstructionism when it comes to moving legislation that would make America more secure. Every day we wait on this is another day for the terrorists. For example, I talked about cargo screening. Other countries do it, but we don't.

These phantom issues which are blocking this bill do not exist. This is a bill which the managers, Senator LIEBERMAN and others, have worked out. We could go to conference and do this bill in one-half hour, an hour. And this is a real conference where conferees would sit down, there would be open debate, public debate, there is nothing to jam this through. This is the way we should do things.

The 9/11 victims' families have organizations, and these family representatives are calling for all parties to move this forward, and we are listening to them. This bill needs to pass. We are willing to be flexible. We have shown that. I would hope my Republican colleagues and the administration will demonstrate what they do not like about this bill, and what they do not like about it, tell us. This bill is important. It is important for me and my family, every Senator here and their families, everybody in this country, and every day we don't do something is a day lost.

I can assure my Republican colleague that Senator LIEBERMAN, our lead conferee, as well as the rest of our conferees will continue to work in a bipartisan manner, as they have to date. So I am very disappointed the Republicans are still objecting to moving the process forward on this bill. I say to my colleagues and to all Americans that I will be back on the floor again and again until our Republican friends allow us to move forward.

I do say, Mr. President, that it is a real shame we can't get this done before the Fourth of July recess. I am not exaggerating when I say this bill needs to be done. I think, without going into any confidential information, this bill should pass. We should do it as soon as we can. I urge my friend to speak to whomever needs to be spoken to on the other side to reconsider their objection.

Tomorrow, let us move this bill. It is Thursday. We could complete this before we go home, and it would be a day of celebration for all America that we are implementing the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1585

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request that I would like to make, and I will do that right now.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 189, H.R. 1585, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, on Monday, July 9, following the period of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, it is my understanding the Senate bill is not yet available. I think the bill will be filed at some point soon so that Members can review it, but at this time, until Members see the legislation, I will object, and maybe we can revisit this when the bill is reported. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. If I could ask the indulgence of the majority leader briefly.

With regard to the effort on the homeland security, 9/11 Commission recommendations, I think the concerns we have on this legislation were made very clear, laid out in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when the legislation was being considered. We want homeland security in America, but we also want to make sure the money we provide and what we authorize is done in a responsible and appropriate way. There is the possibility of gorging the system without getting a lot of results.

I have flown to the different ports in this country and looked at port security and all the intermodal activities and the security that goes on there. More is being done than maybe some people realize. But also there were some labor provisions in this legislation that clearly needed to be worked out in order for this legislation to make it through the process.

But I agree, hopefully we can get something worked out here where this legislation could perhaps get into conference and get it done before we leave for the Fourth of July. The conferees know where the problems are; if they would meet and get those problems worked out, then I think probably this legislation could be cleared.

I just wanted to respond to the majority leader's concern. I understand how he feels and what he is trying to do, but I did want to put those comments and those thoughts on the record.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would say this: The labor provisions about which the distinguished Senator talked, we have agreed to take care of those. Everybody knows that. Maybe my friend doesn't, but we certainly have conveyed this to the minority in great detail. I would simply say, if it is not this, then what is it? We have agreed to handle the labor situation in this bill. The Speaker and I have agreed, and I don't know what other assurance anyone could give.

This is really stunning to me, that on the Defense authorization bill I am

going to have to file cloture—Defense authorization bill—a motion to proceed to it. We have already filed—I don't know the exact number, I lose track of it, but 12 to 14 motions, clotures on motions to proceed, far more than were done in the last Congress just in this little period of time we have been here. Why? Because everything we move to, there is an objection.

Keep in mind what this is. It is the Defense authorization bill, a bill we have to pass to take care of our troops in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Korea, in Germany, and troops here at home. It is for training. It has a pay raise in it. It is a good piece of legislation worked on by Senator WARNER and Senator LEVIN. It is a bipartisan bill, and I just think everyone who is listening to these proceedings, wherever they might be, should understand the Republicans are objecting to going to the bill to fund our troops.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 189, H.R. 1585, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will now report the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1585.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 189, H.R. 1585, Department of Defense Authorization, 2008.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Daniel K. Inouye, Byron L. Dorgan, Ted Kennedy, Joe Biden, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Jim Webb, Ben Nelson, Ron Wyden, Pat Leahy, H.R. Clinton, Claire McCaskill, Carl Levin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed and ask the mandatory quorum call with respect to the motion required under rule XXII be waived.

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

CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 320(c) of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 Budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels for legislation that extends the Transitional Medical Assistance program, so long as that legislation does not worsen the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 or fiscal years 2007 through 2017.

I find that S. 1701, introduced today by Senator BAUCUS, satisfies the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for Transitional Medical Assistance. Therefore, pursuant to section 320(c), I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2008 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Finance Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 320(c) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRANSITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101:	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	1,900.340
FY 2008	2,015.841
FY 2009	2,113.811
FY 2010	2,169.475
FY 2011	2,350.248
FY 2012	2,488.296
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	−4.366
FY 2008	−34.955
FY 2009	6.885
FY 2010	5.754
FY 2011	−44.302
FY 2012	−108.800
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2007	2,376.360
FY 2008	2,496.053
FY 2009	2,517.001
FY 2010	2,569.530
FY 2011	2,684.693
FY 2012	2,718.954
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2007	2,299.752
FY 2008	2,468.314
FY 2009	2,565.585
FY 2010	2,599.174
FY 2011	2,691.658
FY 2012	2,703.160

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 320(c) DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRANSITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Finance Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	1,011,515
FY 2007 Outlays	1,017,805
FY 2008 Budget Authority	1,078,809
FY 2008 Outlays	1,079,815
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	6,017,388
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	6,021,713
Adjustments:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	12
FY 2007 Outlays	3
FY 2008 Budget Authority	96
FY 2008 Outlays	99
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	−9
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	−3
Revised Allocation to Senate Finance Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	1,011,527
FY 2007 Outlays	1,017,808
FY 2008 Budget Authority	1,078,905
FY 2008 Outlays	1,079,914
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	6,017,379
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	6,021,710

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that on June 11, I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 14, a joint resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez no longer holds the confidence of the Senate and of the American people. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 207, I would not have voted in favor of the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 14. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on July 4, the Nation will celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, landmark legislation that has guaranteed the public's ''right to know'' for generations of Americans. Regrettably, the Senate will mark this very important anniversary without having passed the Openness Promotes Effectiveness in Our National Government Act, the OPEN Government Act, S. 849, comprehensive legislation that Senator CORNYN and I introduced earlier this year to strengthen and reinvigorate FOIA for all Americans.

Responsive government and transparent decisionmaking are bedrock American values. FOIA honors and helps translate those values into practice, and the OPEN Government Act will help FOIA work better in serving the public's interest.

The Judiciary Committee favorably reported this bipartisan legislation in April. But a Republican hold is delaying consideration of this important FOIA reform bill. The Senate Republican leadership has also ignored requests to debate this bill on the Senate floor, needlessly stalling these long-overdue, bipartisan reforms to strengthen FOIA.

For more than four decades, FOIA's timeless values of openness and transparency in government have ensured access to Government information. Just this week, we witnessed the great value of FOIA in shedding light on a controversial policy within the Office of the Vice President regarding the handling of classified information, with news reports that a FOIA request to the Justice Department first revealed that the Attorney General may have delayed a review into the legality of this troubling policy.

Although FOIA remains an indispensable tool in shedding light on bad policies and Government abuses, this open Government law is being hampered by excessive delays and lax FOIA compliance. Today, Americans who seek information under FOIA remain less likely to obtain it than during any other time in FOIA's 40-plus year history. According to the National Security Archive, an independent research institute, the oldest outstanding FOIA requests date back to 1989, before the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Moreover, more than a year after the President's FOIA Executive order to