

gridlock, in a cooperative way, and get the job done in the best interests of the American people, I think the American people would see that very positively. I want to see if we can find a way to make that happen.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me express enthusiastically my desire to work with the whip to make that happen. I only lend one small piece of advice if he is desirous of making that happen sooner rather than later. We could simply take the defend America bill off of the calendar for now—put it back on the calendar, I should say—or, obviously, we are back into a cloture vote at 2:15 on Tuesday. We can avoid that cloture vote and go right to these bills and debate them. I do not think there is any desire on our part to unnecessarily extend the debate. We do have some amendments, as I have indicated. I think we can resolve these matters one by one and have a very productive week when we get back. That might be time much better spent than to have additional cloture votes on the so-called Defend America Act. That is, obviously, a matter that my colleagues on the other side, the leadership, are going to have to decide. That would be a way with which to break the logjam and keep the process moving along. I look forward to working with the distinguished whip and the majority leader to see if we can resolve the matters in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

WELFARE REFORM

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I will just say a word or two, and I will make a unanimous-consent request. Three days ago in Wisconsin, I outlined my welfare reform plan. Let me be as clear as I can about what it contains. There are five principal points.

I mean every able-bodied welfare recipient to find work within 2 years, or a shorter period of time if the State so desires.

I mean a real 5-year lifetime limit on welfare payments with few exceptions.

I mean making certain that illegal noncitizens are ineligible for all emergency benefits.

I mean giving States the ability to stop payments to unmarried teens.

And, above all, I mean trusting the Nation's Governors with the flexibility they need to establish the laboratories of our democracy.

I think it is fair to say that there are different approaches. Everybody wants welfare reform. I think the President and I have a different approach. It will be debated—maybe after my departure from the Senate—and I hope there is some way to work out welfare and Medicaid as a package and have that signed by the President.

We are witnessing in the inner cities out-of-wedlock births as high as 80 percent. Most Americans believe, I think, that able-bodied people on welfare should work if there are jobs, and the President indicated yesterday that, in effect, he said he would take our suggestions. I am not certain he has had an opportunity to read the bill. It was introduced a couple of days ago. If he does agree with my five positions, which I just stated—I do not think they are consistent with his views. In fact, I will indicate for the Record that he has a different view on almost each of the five.

Governor Thompson and four other Republican Governors wrote to President Clinton, "Without national welfare reform for all 50 States, the cycle of poverty goes on—for instance, the number of single women head of households in poverty has increased by 175,000 since you, Mr. President, took office."

No doubt about it, we must stop the plague of out-of-wedlock births in our inner cities, which is as high as 80 percent in some areas.

We must give all able-bodied Americans a chance at the American work ethic.

We must reform welfare. President Clinton is not doing this. As we all know, he has twice vetoed welfare reform passed by Congress. I wonder if he is willing to deny the American dream to another generation of Americans.

President Clinton yesterday suggested my five positions outlined above were very consistent with his. They are not. The President suggested that Congress pass my welfare reform plan and the he will sign it.

I am ready to move on my plan. I offer the following unanimous consent.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— WELFARE REFORM

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the immediate consideration of the bill, which I now send to the desk re welfare, and it be considered under the following time restraints: 1 hour on the bill to be equally divided in the usual form; no amendments or motions in order; and that following the conclusion or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to third reading and final passage to occur, all without further action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, reserving the right to object. The last time the Senate considered welfare reform, as you know and the majority leader recognizes, it took over 10 days. We had 200 amendments offered. The Senate conducted 42 rollcall votes in relation to that particular bill—all of this on a piece of legislation with close to 700 pages. I do not know if everybody had the opportunity to see the catalog effect that that bill has as you carry it to the desk. But this is the

conference report from that bill. It is 693 pages long. There were a lot of amendments. Ultimately, as the leader recalls, there was a pretty broad bipartisan support for the bill, after all that work was done.

So I do not know that we might be able to agree to what he has suggested now.

But in light of what he has suggested, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader amend his request to provide that the Senate turn to the consideration of the welfare bill as the first order of business on Monday, June 3, and that the motion to proceed to the missile defense bill be delayed until the completion of the welfare bill, so that we might finish it while he is still here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the leader modify his request?

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I object to that. But I indicate that we have talked about minimum wage, we have talked about welfare reform, and we have talked about repeal of the gas tax, which we hoped to have done before the Memorial Day recess in order to save millions of Americans a lot of money. We did not quite get it done.

I am perfectly willing, if we can work out some agreement. My point is that the President says he likes this bill. He said, "Send that bill down here and I will sign it." He is going to have a week to look at it—the Memorial Day recess. It will be printed, and it will be available. I believe the Democratic leader will find that there are even more generous provisions in the bill that passed this body by a vote of 87 to 12, and it would have been 88 to 12 except Senator HATFIELD from Oregon was ill that day.

So we have tried in this bill to accommodate many of the concerns the Governors raised, from both parties. We believe it is a good bill. The President said it is a good bill. At least that is what he said Wednesday in Wisconsin. I am just trying to accommodate his wishes. But I cannot agree with all of the other matters pending.

We may decide on the missile defense, if we can work out some broad agreement to put it back on the calendar. I think we could dispose of the other three next week—the week we are back, the last week I will be in the U.S. Senate. It would certainly be agreeable with me.

So I will try to work with the distinguished Democratic leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the majority leader's request?

Mr. DASCHLE. Regrettably, we object at this time.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1823

Mr. DOLE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill which I introduced be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is their objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.