

lot of trouble by the Senator from Arkansas. He is to be commended. This is a great thing to happen to him in that he has now decided not to run again. I appreciate the work of the two leaders in getting the taxpayer bill of rights 2 passed.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me just say, in that regard, the Senator from Nevada makes a very good point. The Senator from Arkansas, Senator PRYOR, has labored on this issue probably longer than anybody here in the Senate and deserves much praise for his efforts. This is his second work product, along with others. We commend him for that.

#### GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMISSION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I inquire of the Democratic leader, what is the status with regard to the gambling impact study commission we had talked earlier about? You needed time to look at that and see if there were any problems with it, or whether amendments are required. What has the Senator been able to determine?

Mr. DASCHLE. If the majority leader will yield. As I understand it, we have three amendments that may be offered by one of the members of our caucus. At this point, he would like to be protected to offer those at the appropriate time.

Mr. LOTT. Are these germane amendments?

Mr. DASCHLE. As I understand it, they are germane amendments.

Mr. LOTT. I would like to try again to do this in such a way that it would not take much of the Senate's time. In fact, I do not think we can do it if we cannot get it done by unanimous consent. Could we ask for copies of these amendments to look at the text?

Mr. DASCHLE. Absolutely. If the majority leader will yield. I was not aware amendments were pending. As we tried to clear it, we were told that at least one Member—I think it is only one Member—has amendments. He said there were three. We would be happy to share them with you. He may be willing to agree to time agreements in an effort to expedite the situation.

Mr. LOTT. I would like to say that I did advise Senators on our side of the aisle that if there would be amendments, we probably would not even be able to bring it up because we do not have the time. We have killed 2 days here with these issues.

So I hope that Senators on both sides and Senators LUGAR and SIMON will work with us and see if we cannot get some sort of agreement so we can handle this quickly. I feel like I have fulfilled my commitment.

I yield to the chairman.

Mr. STEVENS. There is a managers' amendment, I point out, that Senator GLENN and I have worked up. So if we get a time agreement, I would like the managers to have the right to offer their amendment.

Mr. LOTT. I believe that is in the unanimous-consent request.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF WALKER MILLER, OF COLORADO, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 591, the nomination of Walker Miller, of Colorado, to be U.S. district judge for the District of Colorado; I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BRYAN. Reserving the right to object. As the request is propounded, we do not get off the Department of Defense appropriations bill; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BRYAN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the nomination is confirmed.

The nomination was considered and confirmed, as follows:

#### THE JUDICIARY

Walker D. Miller, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

#### CONFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I had planned to ask unanimous consent again to appoint conferees on health care reform—health insurance reform. I see the Senator from Massachusetts here. I would like very much for us to get these conferees appointed. I know that there is still discussion underway regarding medical savings accounts.

I now have something on paper. If we could review it, I will talk to Senator ROTH, Senator KASSEBAUM, and Congressman HASTERT and Congressman ARCHER. We will take a look at it. I had just about concluded that there was no intent at all to get health insurance reform. Now we have something we can review. I think it is a big mistake not to appoint conferees on this bill or any bill to go to conference. We labored for weeks and finally got conferees with the Coast Guard authorization bill. We got that done this morning at 10 o'clock, after all these weeks working on that.

My intent is, in short order, next week, to move to appoint conferees on the small business tax relief package, which includes minimum wage. I think we need to also appoint these. I will not ask for it tonight because I want to review the proposal I have.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me just say two things.

First, reference was made to the fact that the Democratic caucus—and those of us who are concerned about going to conference on health care also—oppose going to conference on the minimum wage. That was not the case. We do not oppose going to conference on the minimum wage. The unanimous consent was propounded in a way that combined the two, and, obviously, under those circumstances, we oppose.

I am pleased to hear the distinguished majority leader's comments that it is his desire to go to conference next week, and I am hopeful that on both these issues they can be resolved.

The second issue has to do again with the conferees. I do not want to be any more repetitive than he is. But since we tend to be repetitive on the floor to make our points, it is important again that I indicate our desire to be participants in conferences. We will be watching this Coast Guard conference very carefully because that will really be one of the prototypes. We are under new leadership now. It is my expectation that with new leadership there will be a new opportunity for bipartisan discussion, dialog, and resolution when it comes to the conference. This will be a good opportunity to demonstrate our good faith. I am hopeful that with that one over, we can move to others and see equal demonstrations of good faith and real bipartisanship in conferences. I have a feeling we will not have this conference problem in the future were that to be the case.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield to me once again?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to note with regard to the Coast Guard authorization that two of the Senators that are going to be in control of that are Senator STEVENS—once again he has been known and will be a conferee I am sure—and the Senator from South Carolina is going to be a conferee; bipartisan. Both of them represent coastal areas. Neither one of them wants us to end this session without a Coast Guard authorization bill. Yet, this issue has been held up by an issue involving claimless lawsuits that are being filed in the Federal court system—an issue which I really felt certainly did not justify all of the delay that has occurred here. But I believe that in conference they will work it out. They never are going to work it out until they get to conference. It took us weeks to get to conference. But now we are in it. I think these two guys, working with the House counterparts, are going to find a solution.

Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Alaska.