

issue or one that we are trying to put out without it having been considered by committee or having been considered by the full Senate in the recent past.

I want the RECORD also to reflect that I have tried to get the Democrats to agree for the Armed Services Committee to meet, and other committees, on very important issues. They have objected to bringing up the birth defects bill. They have objected to the Armed Services Committee meeting, the Foreign Relations Committee meeting, the Science Committee from meeting. I even offered an opportunity for us to divide an hour of debate time equally on both sides and to get an agreement where we could have extended debate tonight, and I suggested even as late as midnight, 6 hours, 7 hours, whatever amount of time that might have been called for. But that was not accepted because they would not agree for the Armed Services Committee to meet and to do their markup work.

I want to say again, my Democratic colleagues have objected to bringing up the birth defects bill, they have objected to very important committees meeting with very important witnesses, and a markup of the Department of Defense. They have objected to dividing the time equally so all Senators can be heard in 10-minute segments of their own time, and they have even refused an offer that I have made for this debate to go on for an extended period of time, perhaps even as late as midnight tonight.

Now, before I make any further motion, did the Senator from North Dakota have a question he would like to ask? And I yield for the purpose of a question.

Mr. DORGAN. I do, and of course the majority leader has the power of scheduling in the U.S. Senate. The objection that we raised was an objection based on the understanding that the unanimous-consent request propounded by the majority leader was that he would remain in control at the end of the period of whether we had an opportunity to speak again and when we had an opportunity to speak again.

We have had, on two occasions now, a motion made to adjourn the Senate and a vote on that, and the majority leader has then adjourned the Senate twice last week and now apparently today, and some of us feel very strongly that we wish to continue to discuss and to push and prod to see if we cannot get a disaster bill passed without the extraneous or unrelated amendments attached to it that have caused a veto.

Now, the reason I rise to ask a question, as I listened intently to the question asked by the Senator from Texas—and she indicated to the majority leader that this was, really, the only appropriations vehicle or the first appropriations vehicle that was available for her to exercise an option to deal with the continuing resolution or Government shutdown amendment.

In fact, there is a House appropriations bill on the calendar, H.R. 581, that the Senator from Texas and others who wish to propose their amendment could offer to attach their amendment to. In addition to that, there are 13 additional appropriations bills that will follow that they can certainly attempt to attach their amendment to.

But the title of this piece of legislation is an appropriations bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disaster and so on. I am assuming that those who decided to attach it to this piece of legislation did so because by its very title it is an emergency supplemental appropriations bill for recovery from natural disasters.

The Senator from Texas makes the point, as the Senator from Mississippi, there are some things in here that are not an emergency. That is a quarrel I suspect the Senator would have with the Appropriations Committee heads and others. There may well be some things in here that are not an emergency. I have no objection to taking those things and moving them aside and passing the disaster portions of this bill.

I say that it seems to me, at least viewing it, that those who have attached this amendment to this bill have done so believing that this bill is a must-pass piece of legislation because it is an emergency and, therefore, it is a way of moving their agenda along on this Government shutdown amendment. My point is there are 13 more bills. Do it on another bill. Do it on the House bill resting at the desk of the Senate, but do not do it in a way holding up disaster relief.

I am happy to propound the question. It is now 2½ weeks beyond the adjournment for the Memorial Day recess, which is the time when we should have passed this legislation, 2½ weeks beyond that, and the fact is we are now in a circumstance where it does not appear we are any closer to passing a piece of legislation that the President will be able to sign. Will the majority leader, at least from the Senate side, indicate to us that he feels that we can get this thing passed this week in a manner that allows it to be signed?

Mr. LOTT. I would be willing to work with him in that regard. I think we definitely can do it. I believe we will have some time here in a moment where maybe we can talk about that.

Here is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He is convening. I have seen him work miracles before, and I know he is prepared to do that again this time with the help from the Senators from North Dakota and the Senator from Texas.

Does the Senator from Oklahoma wish to ask a question with regard to the situation?

Mr. NICKLES. If I could just ask a question, because I understand our colleagues from North Dakota wish to speak on this issue. I know some col-

leagues on this side of the aisle would like to speak.

Correct me if I am wrong; did you not offer to allow debate on this and other issues, maybe debate as late at 12 o'clock tonight? That is almost an additional 8 hours.

Mr. LOTT. I knew it came as a shock to the Senator from Oklahoma, but he is right.

Mr. NICKLES. I did not want to stay for all of that, but I think the Senator from Mississippi, the majority leader, is being generous with time.

If our colleagues are going to object to the offer that the majority leader made, I do not think they are showing good faith, and that does not increase the likelihood of getting things done.

Now, correct me if I am wrong; I ask the majority leader this question, the majority leader asked permission for the committees to meet?

Mr. LOTT. Correct.

Mr. NICKLES. And stated his intentions to allow the Senate to be able to debate this and other issues on time equally divided; is that not correct?

Mr. LOTT. That is correct.

Mr. NICKLES. My comment would be to the majority leader that I think you are being very generous and I hope our colleagues will cooperate.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I appreciate the questioning of the Senator from Oklahoma, and I say that the procedure which I am about to carry out here has been forced by the fact that we can't get consideration of the birth defect legislation, we can't get permission for key committees to meet, and we can't get a time agreement on how the debate will occur.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. LOTT. Therefore, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 3]

Bond	Grams	Nickles
Conrad	Hutchinson	Stevens
Coverdell	Hutchison	Thurmond
Dorgan	Inhofe	Wellstone
Gorton	Lott	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is not present.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move that the Senate stand in adjournment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion of the majority leader. The yeas and nays were ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.