

new market opportunities for agricultural, manufactured, and timber-related products, and to produce increased tourism opportunities, as well.

I just want to take this opportunity to confirm with the chairman of the subcommittee my understanding that the State of Maine, which has included this project as part of its 20-year state-wide transportation plan, can use a portion of the roughly \$17 million in higher Federal highway funding from this legislation to pursue and conduct the NEPA study.

Mr. President, at this point, I will yield the floor to the chairman of the subcommittee so that he may respond to my inquiry.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, Senator COLLINS has been in touch with our subcommittee throughout the year as we prepared the 1998 Transportation appropriation bill. She has talked to us more than once. In particular, the Senator from Maine has made clear that securing available sources of funding for the NEPA study is a very high priority for her and the people in the northern part of her State of Maine. The Senator has also been a strong supporter of higher funding in fiscal year 1998 to meet other necessary transportation priorities on behalf of the State of Maine as well.

Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to confirm the inquiry of the Senator and to reiterate that the State of Maine is clearly able to use highway funds provided in this act, subject to ISTEA reauthorization, to conduct a NEPA study. I believe that the Senator from Maine has made a compelling case for moving ahead with this study and, in fact, I believe that the NEPA study would be a good use of a portion of Maine's highway funding.

Mr. President, Senator COLLINS has made it very clear to the subcommittee how important improving the travel corridor in northern Maine is, and I share her view that this NEPA study would be a very high priority for funding in 1998.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I thank the chairman for his assurances and express my gratitude and thanks to him and his staff for their assistance in this matter.

I also want to again applaud his efforts to ensure that we have adequate funding for our transportation infrastructure, which is so vital to this Nation's prosperity.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following be the only first-degree amendments in

order to S. 1048 other than the pending amendments, and that they be subject to relevant second-degree amendments. I send the list to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The list is as follows:

Bob Smith: Section 127 of title 23.  
Hollings: Relevant.  
Hollings: Relevant.  
Graham: Transit.  
Daschle/Johnson: Relevant.

#### MANAGERS PACKAGE

Shelby amendment.  
Lautenberg amendment.  
Durbin: Relevant.  
Graham/Levin Sense-of-Senate: Relevant.  
Byrd: Relevant.  
Stevens: Relevant.  
Kerrey: Relevant.  
Boxer: Railroad.  
Chafee: Relevant.  
Chafee: Relevant.  
Warner: Relevant.  
Warner: Relevant.  
Specter: Relevant.  
Enzi: Relevant.  
Enzi: Relevant.  
Mack: ISTEA reauthorization.  
Abraham: Relevant.  
D'Amato: Relevant.  
Frist: Relevant.  
Gorton: Relevant.  
Bond: Relevant.  
Brownback: Relevant.  
Moseley-Braun: Motorcycle helmets.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I further ask that when all of the above amendments have been disposed of, S. 1048 be advanced to third reading and the Senate immediately turn to H.R. 2169, the House companion bill, all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1048, as amended, be inserted, H.R. 2169 be immediately advanced to third reading, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage, all without further action or debate.

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

Mr. SHELBY. Finally, I ask that following the vote on passage of the transportation appropriations bill, the Senate insist on its amendments, request a conference with the House, the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, and S. 1048 be placed back on the calendar.

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

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of S. 1048 immediately following the stacked votes at 2:15 on Tuesday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

Mr. SHELBY. For the information of all Senators, the managers intend to remain in session until all amendments are offered and debated with respect to the Transportation bill. Therefore, Members should expect final disposition of the Transportations appropriations bill on Wednesday morning.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, if I may say to my colleague, the chairman, I will just take the floor for a

couple minutes and say that we have now been here 2 hours. It was the understanding when we left last week that the Transportation Subcommittee's bill would be up this evening with an opportunity to offer amendments and consider the business of the bill. We have had hardly a response.

I do not have to lecture my colleagues, certainly, but this is the last week before we adjourn for August and get home to do the things we have to do with our constituents. I hope we can help move the process along. We ask our colleagues to join in to get the business of the people done, to get those amendments up here as quickly as we can tomorrow.

We intend—and I discussed this with Senator SHELBY—to be here long enough to get the work done, but we cannot do it unless people offer their amendments and take advantage of the opportunity to make those suggestions that they think improve the bill.

So I send out this plea, Mr. President, probably to those who are just turning off their TV sets around the Capitol and say that we hope you will remember the bill will be open again tomorrow after the votes which are now listed and that we can get to work on passing the appropriations bill for 1998, one that we can send over to the House and get a conference on. We are moving along at a very good pace with our appropriations bills for next year, and we ought to continue to help that pace, get done, and let the people across the country know the appropriate investments are going to be made in the things that are included in this bill.

With that simple admonition, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at this time there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting treaties, a withdrawal, and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)