

something we might try to get up Thursday night or Friday, or not later than next Monday. We also have pending before us a number of other important bills, including the higher education legislation and nuclear waste. So there are a number of bills that are waiting.

Again, I ask for the cooperation of the Senators on both sides of the aisle to work with the chairman of the Finance Committee and ranking member to get an agreement on how we can proceed. Let's have a good debate, relevant amendments, and let's complete this job.

Even the President, who originally resisted IRS reform, on his radio show Saturday said what has been happening at IRS is outrageous and that we should act on this legislation and get it to him as quickly as possible. I hope we will move forward, now that we have him involved in this effort, and complete this important legislation.

Mr. President, I note that there are no Senators waiting to speak. I believe the managers of the legislation will be here at noon. From now until noon will be a period of morning business.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 12 o'clock noon, at which time, under the previous order, the Senate will proceed, for debate only, to the consideration of H.R. 2676.

Under the previous order, the Senator from North Dakota is recognized at this time.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my understanding is the 30 minutes that I am able to use under a previous unanimous consent agreement will bump up against the 12 o'clock time. I ask unanimous consent that the 12 o'clock time be modified so I may use the entire 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is permitted to speak until 12:15 p.m.

ISTEA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I want to visit about a couple of things this morning. First, I want to talk about the highway bill that is in conference between the House and the Senate. It is now May 4, 1998. The highway bill, or a piece of legislation people commonly refer to as ISTEA (the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act)

was supposed to have been completed last year, but it was not. The highway bill was extended until May 1, and then the authorization for the highway bill expired.

We are now on May 4 without highway legislation that is authorized, and the highway officials and Governors around the country are wondering, appropriately, what is going to happen to this highway bill? With what authority can I obligate money? What about the projects we have to do in our States to build roads and repair bridges?

I don't blame State and local highway officials and others who are rightly furious with the Congress that it has not gotten its work done. It is a shame, in my judgment, that almost a year after the legislation should have been done, not only was the legislation not done, but we have already had an extension and that has expired. Now, here we are with no highway bill at all.

I ask those who run this Congress and those who are convening the conference on the highway bill, let's decide to get this thing done. This isn't rocket science; it is building highways. We know how to do that. If the political will doesn't exist to do what is necessary to reach a compromise on a highway bill, then I suppose that those who run the Congress should say to the Governors and the highway commissioners, "We can't be counted upon to do this work."

I hope in the coming days people will understand the urgency of this. I come from the State of North Dakota, and we have a relatively short construction season. It is not fair to our States for this Congress not to do its work on time. We should do it, it ought to be done, and it ought to be done soon.

TOBACCO LEGISLATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I came to the floor today to talk for just a moment about the tobacco legislation that is to be brought to the floor of the Senate. My understanding is that we will consider, in the next perhaps month, the tobacco legislation that was enacted by the Senate Commerce Committee, of which I am a member.

The Senate Commerce Committee considered a comprehensive tobacco bill. We passed it, and the vote was 19 to 1. The legislation is controversial, to be sure, and the tobacco industry has now ratcheted up an enormous amount of money and energy directed at trying to kill the bill.

I thought it would be interesting to read into the RECORD a few comments here and there dealing with the tobacco companies and why they are so interested in killing this tobacco legislation. We will see an enormous amount of money spent on advertising to try to kill this legislation.

My colleague, Senator CONRAD from North Dakota, chaired a task force on the issue of tobacco and created a piece of legislation. He has done a wonderful job, in my judgment, dealing this with

issue, and the Senate could well take its cues from the work Senator CONRAD has done. Incidentally, the Senate Commerce Committee took much from the legislation Senator CONRAD introduced in the Congress.

The reason we are concerned about the tobacco issue is the targeting of teenagers in this country to get them to smoke. I have said before on the floor that almost no one reaches age 30 and wonders, "What more could I do to fulfill my life?" and decides they should start smoking. Almost no one reaches majority age and says, "Gee, what am I missing?" and concludes what they have really missed is, they have not smoked and they need to start smoking cigarettes. The reason they don't arrive at that answer is that by that age, they know that cigarettes can kill you.

Mr. President, 300,000 to 400,000 people a year die in this country from smoking and smoking-related causes, and the only future customers for tobacco are kids. The only conceivable future customers for cigarettes are children, and that is why many in this country, myself included, believe it is important for us to say to the tobacco industry, "Never again shall you target America's children to addict them to tobacco, addict them to nicotine. We won't allow it." That is what the tobacco legislation is all about.

What did the tobacco companies know, and when did they know it about the subject of nicotine? We are now hearing a lot of testimony and discussion about that. Tobacco companies have been at the forefront of nicotine research in the last several decades. In fact, the tobacco companies, since the early 1960s, claimed that nicotine was not addictive and anyone who smokes makes a free choice to smoke.

By the 1960s, however, all of the reports we are now seeing, including confidential memoranda and data from a tobacco company, showed us they had developed a very sophisticated understanding of nicotine pharmacology and they knew very well that nicotine was pharmacologically addictive. The release of internal tobacco company documents makes it clear. They realize the impact and significance of nicotine.

In 1963, a British American Tobacco document said:

Nicotine is by far the most characteristic single constituent in tobacco, and the known physiological effects are positively correlated with smoker response.

In 1969, a draft report to the Philip Morris board of directors said:

In the past, we at R&D—that is research and development—have said that we're not in the cigarette business, we're in the smoke business. It might be more pointed to observe that the cigarette is the vehicle of smoke, smoke is the vehicle of nicotine and nicotine is the agent of a pleasurable body response.

In a memo from 1978, Brown & Williamson, signed by H.D. Steele says:

Very few consumers are aware of the effects of nicotine, i.e., its addictive nature and that nicotine is a poison.