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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Pablo Gonzales, Chief of the Chaplain Service, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Huntington, WV.

We are very pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Pablo L. Gonzales, offered the following prayer:

Join me in prayer this morning.

Eternal God, Creator and Redeemer of our great Nation, we lift our hearts, minds, and souls to You on this day of mercy. We humble ourselves before Your omniscience and omnipresence.

Father, we confess to You this day that we are dependent on You. Without You, we can do nothing. We rely on Your grace, on Your mercy, and on Your love to direct this Nation.

We pause to take time away from our busy schedules and from all the many activities to come before Your divine presence. As we humble ourselves before You, pour upon this Senate Your divine Spirit. Allow Your Spirit to flow and give the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and discernment to rest upon the lives of these men and women. We also lift up their families who pay a price of loneliness and sacrifice to this Nation. Be with them, Lord, and keep disease and injury away from them.

Father, lead us beside the still waters. Draw us away from our own agenda and help us to see Your unique perspective. Bless this day, for all things are in Your hands. In Your Name we pray, and all say amen. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Washington, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the energy and water appropriations bill. Senator REID and I hope that Members who wish to offer amendments to the energy and water bill will come to the floor during today's session to offer and debate their amendments under short time agreements. Therefore, rollcall votes are possible during today's session of the Senate.

The majority leader would like to remind Members that the Independence Day recess is fast approaching, and therefore the cooperation of all Members will be necessary to make progress on a number of important items, including appropriations bills, any available conference reports, the Higher Education Act, the Department of Defense authorization bill, and any other legislative or executive items that may be cleared for action.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair now lays before the Senate S. 2138, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2138) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bob Perret, a congressional fellow in my office, have floor privileges during the pendency of this bill.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee and I came to the floor with this bill, the fiscal year 1999 appropriations bill, for the programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Energy, Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and other independent agencies. I support this $21 billion bill. It is not a perfect bill, but it is a very good bill. We worked under very extreme conditions in order to get the bill to the point that we have. This is a balanced bill. We did our best to accommodate everyone's priorities and projects.

Mr. President, on the way back to my office yesterday evening I was with some of the staff, and I asked one of the staff, ''What is that you're carrying?'' And I am not exaggerating, it was a folder, a big looseleaf notebook. And he said they were the requests from Members for projects in this bill.

We did our best. We did not make everyone happy. We tried to make sure that we had a balanced approach so that States could meet their needs.

We did not get all the cooperation that I would like to have had from the administration. They cut $1.5 billion from water projects. This left us with projects unfinished, left us with projects that simply needed to go forward. So we had to rearrange this pot to the point we are now here.

So I recommend this bill to my colleagues. This is a bill that includes

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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about $21 billion for essential services in the Department of Energy and the construction and maintenance of water projects around the Nation.

I hope that, as my friend from Washington has said, Members will come forward and offer amendments. We have a limited amount of time. And I would suggest that if we do not get some amendments coming soon—this a very important appropriations bill—that we should move to third reading and move on to something else.

Mr. GORTON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 2713

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator DOMENICI, for Senator INOUYE, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] for Mr. INOUYE, proposes an amendment numbered 2713.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 18, add the following before the period:

''*:Provided further*, The Secretary of the Interior is directed to use not to exceed $200,000 of funds appropriated herein to provide technical assistance in a study of measures to increase the efficiency of existing water systems developed to serve sugar cane plantations and surrounding communities in the State of Hawaii''.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be set aside so that other Members may, if they wish, offer first-degree amendments.

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

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. I interrupt my friend from Washington and ask unanimous consent that a fellow from the office of Senator JEFFORDS of Vermont, Lisa Carter, be granted privileges of the floor during consideration of the energy and water appropriations bill.

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, our desires not yet having been met, 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. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2714

(Purpose: To add provisions of Amendment No. 2420 relating to tobacco policy)

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] proposes an amendment numbered 2714.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Amendments Submitted.'')

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I have the floor; do I not?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader has the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I won't be long. I will accommodate the manager of the bill.

Let me just say this is an amendment that reflects where we were yesterday on what we consider to be one of the most important issues facing our country. I am hopeful that we can come back to this legislation again, as we debated it yesterday. The tobacco bill may have died last night, but the tobacco issue is very much alive.

We have noted that as legislation is presented to the Senate we have no recourse but to continue to press for final consideration, to get a vote, and ultimately to pass legislative changes that will allow us to confront the remarkable problems that we are facing in our country today. In South Dakota, 45 percent of teenagers now are addicted to smoking or are smoking—45 percent. Every day, thousands of children continue to light up for the first time.

Many of us feel that even though we lost parliamentarily yesterday, that we have no choice but to continue to press this issue, to continue to force the Senate to consider ways with which to resolve this matter.

As I said, there ought to be principles that unite us, principles that Republicans and Democrats can agree with, principles that would allow the FDA to regulate tobacco as a drug, principles that would allow us to come up with an orchestrated national effort to discourage smoking among teenagers, principles that recognize the importance of research as we continue to confront the myriad of health problems that are directly related to smoking and addiction. Those are principles that ought to unite us.

I don't think anyone ought to come to any conclusion that somehow because the McCain bill died last night that we now can wash our hands of this issue, that we now are going to move that aside and think that everything is just fine with regard to the schedule or with regard to this particular issue. It isn't. We are not going to be fine until we have come to some conclusion about this. It doesn't really matter what legislation comes before the Senate. We are going to be compelled, either in the form of amendment or in a motion to proceed, to force the Senate, to whatever extent we can, to stay focused on this issue until we resolve it. We are open for suggestions on how we might break this impasse, how we might resolve this matter. We are certainly prepared to sit down with our colleagues and come up with a piece of legislation that will work.

We will not let this issue die. We believe very strongly that it must continue. That is, in essence, what this amendment does. This amendment, for the information of all of my colleagues, simply takes us back to the McCain bill and the managers' amendment. The managers' amendment was added after a great deal of consultation with Members on both sides of the aisle. The managers' amendment and the McCain bill passed, I remind my colleagues, on a vote of 19–1 out of the Commerce Committee.

So this is an opportunity, once again, to use a vehicle to start the negotiations to allow us to come to closure on this issue. I had hoped we could do it sooner rather than later. This is an important bill. I hope we can get on to energy and water. I hope we can deal with all of the appropriations bills. Those bills have to be dealt with, but at the same time, many of us believe that tobacco has to be dealt with as well. Our effort to deal with it will have to be in the form of amendments or in the form of our motions to proceed so long as we haven't found any closure on how we ultimately resolve this very, very important national issue.

I hope we can have a good debate on this amendment. I hope we can have some good give-and-take about what we might do, as a Senate, Republicans and Democrats, to break this impasse and ultimately to pass meaningful tobacco legislation this month.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, as the Democratic leader said, what he has proposed now is that instead of dealing with the normal appropriations bills before the Senate, we should go back to a debate which has taken the last 4 weeks of the Senate's time and ignore everything else that is appropriate in the Senate business.

Last evening, in the last vote, his position fell eight votes shy of getting a necessary budget waiver because of its immense cost to the people of the United States. This proposal, obviously, is equally subject to such a point of order, one that I expect that the majority leader is likely to interpose soon. The result will be identical. In other words, it is simply a frustrating waste of the Senate's time when the Senate ought to be engaged in the business that is before us, and that is the energy and water appropriations bill.

I share one sentiment with the Democratic leader. I believe that the Senate should pass a bill relating to tobacco. I don't believe that it should be

anything like the bill that was before us yesterday, by any stretch of the imagination. But if we are to pass legislation on the subject, it is going to require more understanding and more tolerance of one side to the other than evidenced in the course of the last 3 or 4 weeks. It clearly is not going to be accomplished by the kind of amendment that was placed before the Senate at this point.

Awaiting further instructions from the majority leader, 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. NICKLES. 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. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business for 2 minutes.

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

(The remarks of Mr. NICKLES pertaining to the introduction of S. 2187 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the McCain bill, and I urge my colleagues not to revive this job-busting and budget-busting bill in committee. Like the wicked witch, it is dead, and I am delighted that its tortured life is over. I would like to reflect on this past month of debate on the tobacco bill, Mr. President, and I want to say a few words about this bill and its effects.

Mr. President, tobacco has a long and proud heritage in North Carolina. Since Colonial times, hard-working men and women have supported their families on tobacco, whether by coaxing tobacco from the ground or by processing it into the products used by consumers across the country.

On that note, Mr. President, I want to say a few words in defense of the people we have heard least about during this endless debate. I'm talking about the hard-working men and women of the tobacco manufacturing facilities. We hear all about Big Tobacco, Mr. President, but they're the folks who will suffer if this bill is not stopped. Many thousands of North Carolinians earn their livings in tobacco manufacturing and distribution. They work in the plants and in the warehouses, in the factories and on the loading docks, and on the interstates transporting the product.

These are good jobs, Mr. President, good jobs with good wages and good benefits. This bill puts those working people in its cross hairs. It is no secret to the people of my State that, in their declaration of war on tobacco, President Clinton and Vice President GORE assaulted the heart of our agricultural heritage. The anti-tobacco armies and the trial lawyers created the most serious threat to face the tobacco family in many years.

Just look at the line-up in Congress. Just look at the overwhelming support in the Democratic caucus for this bill. Democratic Senator DICK DURBIN wails that tobacco is the only government-supported crop ''with a body count.'' Democratic Senator TED KENNEDY decries tobacco with characteristic bluster and charges the industry with ''the insidious and shameful poisoning of generations of children.'' If we defeat this bill, Mr. President, it will be with the help of just a couple of Democrats. Where are the defenders of the working folks?

This is not about Big Tobacco, Mr. President, it's about hard-working men and women. The unions and I don't always agree, Mr. President, but I want to insert into the RECORD a statement from the North Carolina A.F.L.–C.I.O. They hit the nail on the head—this is about saving our jobs and saving our communities—and I stand with the working folks against the liberals, the trial lawyers, and the other special interests bent on destroying jobs.

Phillip Morris and R.J. Reynolds major employers in North Carolina. I'm proud of the working men and women at these factories. They're not the most popular folks on Capitol Hill these days, but that fact just speaks volumes about the confused values up in Washington, because we should honor their hard work not try to throw them out of their jobs. And they're not the only ones who will lose their jobs. These taxes will cripple countless businesses.

The McCain bill seeks to increase retail cigarette prices as much as $4.98 in real terms by 2004, tapering off to $3.80 by the year 2007. I am informed that this could lead to a reduction of nearly 50 percent in retail cigarette sales, along with large-scale increases in illegal smuggling activities, and that will cost American jobs.

By 2004, the year in which the payments under the McCain proposal peak, the loss in cigarette sales will lead to devastating economic consequences, and it will be the working men and women who will feel this pain. The economic models show that the price increases—and the effects of increased foreign smuggling—could lead to job losses approaching 1,152,974 workers nationally. That is a mind-boggling number, just think of 1,152,974 disrupted lives, all those hopes and dreams thrown into doubt and chaos. These are real people, supporting real families, working in diverse businesses. They are not just tobacco manufacturing workers, but also convenience store clerks, line workers in paper mills, long distance truckers, and graphic artists in advertising agencies.

For example, in North Carolina, it is estimated that the impact of this proposal will lead to a total loss of 48,691 direct jobs. The effect would be similar to a lay-off of this magnitude from a single employer, Mr. President, with the total impact on the community approaching 161,953 jobs. The implications of the McCain bill would be similar to laying off all of the 40,100 employees of both Burlington Industries in Greensboro and Family Dollar Stores of Charlotte.

However, most of these jobs are in communities that do not have any other industries of comparable size, so it is highly doubtful whether displaced workers would be able to find new jobs near home. Some supporters of the tobacco bill have questioned whether this matters. They claim that displaced workers can just move to where the jobs are. Well, that's not good enough. People have roots in their communities. Any farmer will tell you that you risk killing a plant when you pull out its roots and move it. People are no different.

And even if displaced workers can find new jobs without displacing their families and abandoning their communities, they are not likely to be able to match their current salaries and benefits. These are not wealthy people. These are working people. They simply cannot afford to lose a significant portion of their income.

We can reduce underage tobacco use. But we won't do it by punishing the innocent and honorable men and women who work in the tobacco industry. And we won't do it by destroying the economic engine that has supported their communities for generations. Mr. President, the men and women who work in the tobacco industry and the people who depend upon them deserve our respect and support. They have earned it. Please join with me in giving it to them.

I ask unanimous consent that the statement from the North Carolina AFL–CIO be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NORTH CAROLINA UNIONS STAND UP FOR TOBACCO JOBS: URGE POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO SAVE STATE'S ECONOMY BY JOINING FIGHT FOR FAIR SETTLEMENT

RALEIGH.—''Save Our Jobs, Save Our Communities,'' was the rally call of the state AFL–CIO and its unions representing workers in the tobacco and related industries. They're gravely concerned with the negative impact on North Carolina jobs and the economy if current tobacco legislation pending in the U.S. Congress becomes law.

The unions want political and business leaders to stand up for workers in tobacco and related industry, who will lose their jobs if the right tobacco deal is not passed in Washington.

''I'm here today to speak up for the thousands of hard-working North Carolina men and women whose jobs are threatened by tobacco proposals coming out of Washington, D.C.,'' said James Andrews, president of the North Carolina AFL–CIO. ''These workers have been forgotten by the elected officials who are more concerned about politics then stopping underage smoking and keeping good jobs in our communities.''

''The nation needs an end to the tobacco wars,'' he added. ''Like everyone in this country, we want to stop kids from smoking. The unions in the industry have consistently

supported strong, effective controls on youth access to tobacco. However, we also want to make sure any proposal protects our jobs.''

Pending legislation in the U.S. Senate would devastate many communities in the state, the union leaders charge. ''The McCain bill now before the Senate would destroy jobs, bankrupt the industry and create a black market in which its impossible to protect our children,'' said T.J. Warren of the Bakery Confectionery and Tobacco Workers Union.

Last June when the State Attorneys General worked out a settlement with the tobacco industry, the unions had high hopes of ending the tobacco wars with legislation that helped national health goals but at the same time preserved jobs.

''I am tired of hearing about proposals that destroy jobs and increase taxes in the name of tobacco reform legislation,'' said Warren. ''Many members of Congress want to punish the tobacco companies. But, multinational tobacco firms aren't going to be punished. They'll switch production to low-wage countries and thrive. No one gets punished except the U.S. grower and worker and the communities in which we live, work and spend our consumer dollars.''

''If tobacco moves overseas our plant will close. It cannot be converted to produce other products. More than 90% of what Acusta Corporation makes in Brevard is sold to cigarette companies. We make cigarette papers, foil, package and cellophane,'' said Jerry Stuart, president of Paperworkers local union 1971. ''In the western part of North Carolina good jobs are scarce. If our plant closed it would be an economic disaster area. Not only would Paperworkers be out of work but many small businesses and even small towns would close up.''

''Our members do not want their children to smoke, but they don't want to lose their jobs. These drivers who have established a middle class way of life would be forced into the working poor,'' said Chip Roth of the Teamsters Union. ''The Attorneys General came to a reasonable settlement that will crack down on teen age smoking while allowing the industry to continue.''

''I'm convinced a nation as resourceful as ours can devise national legislation that ends the tobacco wars and fulfills our national public health goals without destroying quality U.S. jobs and devastating the communities in which we live and work,'' said Andrews. ''I refuse to believe that a nation built on freedom and fairness through compromise cannot give the nation what it needs—an end to the tobacco wars and a clear, predictable future for our jobs and families.''

The unions would support a legislative solution that:

Gives Americans a clear, predictable future where kids don't smoke, public health goals are met and smokers and non-smokers alike have their rights respected.

Maintains the U.S. manufacture and export of a product that both domestic and foreign consumers want, thereby preserving U.S. jobs and communities.

Avoids unfair and regressive taxes that single our some individuals to bear the burden while making possible an immensely profitable black market in which we cannot control cigarette sales.

Ends the uncertainty of unpredictable litigation and relentless regulatory battles and brings stability to the industry and its jobs.

Mr. NICKLES. 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. DOMENICI. 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. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I raise a point of order that the pending Daschle amendment violates section 302(f) of the Budget Act and that it would cause the Energy and Water Subcommittee to exceed its 302(b) allocation.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

MOTION TO WAIVE THE BUDGET ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to waive the Budget Act to permit consideration of the amendment.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, 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.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, for the information of all Members, they should understand that this amendment on the part of the Democratic leader does not take us back to where we were yesterday. This is a bill that might best be called Commerce 2. It does not include any of the drug provisions; it does not include a repeal of the marriage penalty; it does not even include the Gregg amendments or the Durbin amendments. It does not include the amendment that was one of mine that was passed to limit attorneys' fees. In effect, this doesn't take us back to yesterday afternoon, it takes us back to 4 weeks ago. I hope that Members will overwhelmingly deny this.

Mr. DOMENICI. Have the yeas and nays been ordered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered on the motion to waive.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a number of people on this side want to speak on this matter now before the Senate. Therefore, 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. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. DORGAN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk resumed the call of the roll.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk resumed the call of the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names.

[Quorum No. 2]

Craig	Gorton	Smith (NH)
Domenici	Lott	
Dorgan	Reid	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is not present. The clerk will call the names of absent Senators.

The legislative clerk resumed the call of the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move that the Sergeant at Arms be instructed to request the attendance of absent Senators, 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 Senator from Mississippi. On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH is necessarily absent.

I also announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) is absent because of illness.

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 163 Leg.]

YEAS—96

Abraham	Feinstein	Lott
Akaka	Ford	Lugar
Allard	Frist	Mack
Ashcroft	Glenn	McCain
Baucus	Gorton	McConnell
Bennett	Graham	Mikulski
Biden	Gramm	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Grams	Moynihan
Boxer	Grassley	Murkowski
Brownback	Gregg	Murray
Bryan	Hagel	Nickles
Bumpers	Harkin	Reed
Burns	Hatch	Reid
Byrd	Helms	Robb
Campbell	Hollings	Roberts
Chafee	Hutchinson	Rockefeller
Cleland	Hutchison	Roth
Coats	Inhofe	Santorum
Cochran	Inouye	Sarbanes
Collins	Jeffords	Sessions
Conrad	Johnson	Shelby
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Smith (NH)
Craig	Kennedy	Smith (OR)
D'Amato	Kerrey	Snowe
Daschle	Kerry	Stevens
DeWine	Kohl	Thomas
Dodd	Kyl	Thompson
Domenici	Landrieu	Thurmond
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Durbin	Leahy	Warner
Enzi	Levin	Wellstone
Feingold	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—2

Bond	Breaux

NOT VOTING—2

Faircloth	Specter

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I yield to Senator MCCAIN for 2 minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I intend to vote with the majority leader because I believe that it is not going to serve any useful purpose for us to continue in this parliamentary dilemma. I am hoping that negotiations and discussions are beginning, that perhaps we can reach some agreement and move this issue forward in the future. But right now I think we need to move forward with legislation.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now move to table the pending motion to waive, and 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 to table the motion to waive. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH) is necessarily absent.

I also announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) is absent because of illness.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 164 Leg.]

YEAS—54

Abraham	Enzi	Mack
Allard	Frist	McCain
Ashcroft	Gorton	McConnell
Bennett	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Nickles
Brownback	Grassley	Roberts
Burns	Gregg	Roth
Byrd	Hagel	Santorum
Campbell	Hatch	Sessions
Chafee	Helms	Shelby
Coats	Hutchinson	Smith (NH)
Cochran	Hutchison	Smith (OR)
Collins	Inhofe	Snowe
Coverdell	Jeffords	Stevens
Craig	Kempthorne	Thomas
D'Amato	Kyl	Thompson
DeWine	Lott	Thurmond
Domenici	Lugar	Warner

NAYS—44

Akaka	Feinstein	Levin
Baucus	Ford	Lieberman
Biden	Glenn	Mikulski
Bingaman	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Boxer	Harkin	Moynihan
Breaux	Hollings	Murray
Bryan	Inouye	Reed
Bumpers	Johnson	Reid
Cleland	Kennedy	Robb
Conrad	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Daschle	Kerry	Sarbanes
Dodd	Kohl	Torricelli
Dorgan	Landrieu	Wellstone
Durbin	Lautenberg	Wyden
Feingold	Leahy	

NOT VOTING—2

Faircloth	Specter

The motion to table the motion to waive the Congressional Budget Act with respect to amendment No. 2138 was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained and the amendment falls.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. THOMAS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator withhold that for 2 minutes so I can make a comment?

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I will withhold for some debate, but not for the offering of an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we have just seen an opportunity for the Senate to address the issue of public health for the children of this country once again, with the introduction of the legislation by Senator DASCHLE.

This is going to be the first of many attempts to try to ensure that the Senate is going to take action to try to protect the young people of this country. That is what this issue is all about. What we have just seen as a result of the vote is that the Republican Party is stonewalling action here in the U.S. Senate and, evidently, still kowtowing to the power of big tobacco and their campaign contributions.

We are not going to be silent on this issue, and we are going to continue to raise it. We believe that it is the most important public health issue, certainly for the children of this Nation, and it is an issue that is not going to go away.

So maybe today there is one more opportunity, by a narrow margin, to defeat those forces and for a reasonable and responsible approach on this issue. This issue is not going to go away. Our Republican friends had better get used to addressing it because they are going to have the opportunity to do it many more times until we get responsible action here, where the Senate is responding to the people's needs, the families' needs, not the interest of big tobacco.

This amendment by Senator DASCHLE would have given the Senate a second chance—an opportunity to reconsider its ill advised action of last night. A minority of Republicans used a transparent parliamentary ploy to frustrate the will of a majority of the Senate. The two votes last night proved that a bipartisan majority of the Senate supports tough antismoking legislation. It also proved that an obstructionist group of Republicans will stop at nothing to prevent fair consideration of the McCain bill. Those Republicans put the interest of the tobacco industry above the health of America's children. For the last four weeks, they have parroted the messages being broadcast in cigarette company advertisements. Last night, they gave their votes as well as their voices to Big Tobacco.

This issue will not go away. It will haunt the Republicans until they allow the bipartisan majority which exists to pass strong antismoking legislation to do so. Just as the Democratic leader brought the issue back to the floor today, we will bring it back again and again. This willful band of Republican obstructionists may have killed a bill last night and blocked consideration of the Daschle amendment today, but they cannot kill an idea whose time has come. Make no mistake, the time has come to protect our children from the evil influence of the tobacco industry.

The times has come to stop 3,000 children a day from beginning to smoke.

The time has come to save those children from a lifetime of addiction and premature death caused by smoking-induced illness.

The time has come to raise the price of cigarettes so they will not be easily affordable to children.

The time has come to stop the tobacco industry's targeting of children with billions of dollars of seductive and misleading advertising.

The time has come to protect millions of nonsmokers from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

The time has come to prevent the 400,000 deaths caused each year by tobacco use.

No power on Earth—not even the Republican leadership of the Senate—can stop an idea whose time has come. The time has come for the Senate to reject the perverse influence of Big Tobacco, and to do what is right for America's children.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, first I just have to say to the Senator from Massachusetts that I am always sort of offended with the idea that if someone doesn't agree with him, they are suddenly a captive of special interests. I think that is very unfair. There are people who have different views, legitimate views, and I think they should be free to express those.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to debate only until 12 noon.

Mr. KERRY. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I wanted to ask for a few minutes before we enter into that debate.

I am not submitting an amendment. I just wanted to have the right to make a comment for 2 minutes.

Mr. THOMAS. I absolutely have no objection to that. We are simply asking that the Senate proceed to debate until 12 o'clock.

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

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to join my colleague, Senator KENNEDY, in expressing what just happened here in the Senate. We just lost an opportunity to, in effect, begin with a clean bill. The complaint yesterday was that the bill had been too loaded down. The complaint yesterday was that the process had gotten away from us. In effect, what Senator DASCHLE did was put us back in the place where we began, to a committee piece of legislation that came to the floor by a vote of 19 to 1. And it was a piece of legislation, before the Lugar amendment was put in, before the liability amendment of Senator GREGG had passed, before the marriage penalty, before the Coverdell

drug plan, before all of those things that were accused of loading it up. So, in effect, we had an opportunity to really start from scratch learning the lessons that the Senate had learned over the course of the last 3 weeks. But once again that was rejected.

As the Senator from Massachusetts said, this will be revisited. This issue is not one that will go away. As I said previously, you can run but there is no way to hide with respect to the responsibility that is expected for our children in the efforts to reduce teenage smoking. That will be revisited.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, the McCain bill is dead, and I say good riddance. It was nothing more than a massive tax increase on working Americans to fund an expansion of the Federal government. However, I suspect that we will revisit the tobacco issue, and I want to ensure that my colleagues remain aware of a critical issue to the people of my State. I'm talking about thousands of tobacco farm families. These are people who depend on tobacco farming for their livelihood and who share a long and proud heritage.

Mr. President, my farmers are hurting, and we're losing more and more of them every year. The tobacco quota continues to drop, but not their credit payments, so they're getting squeezed to the limits. Some of them are well past their limits and were forced off their farms.

I believe that we will face the tobacco issue again next year. Certainly, whether or not we do a small and far less expensive youth access bill without a tax increase at the end of this year, we will return to the so-called tobacco settlement next year. If we return to this bill next year—not in a politically charged atmosphere just five months from Election Day—it will be far easier to manage this process and to come up with a reasonable bill that addresses the needs of all parties. That means farmers, and that is a critical point, because they are the folks on the front line and under fire in this war on tobacco.

We need to address this issue in a calm and reasonable atmosphere, not this hysteria, and I look forward to that debate. The men and women of the tobacco family need some certainty. If the Democrats want to continue their war against tobacco—and I want to point out that just two Democrats voted to kill the McCain bill—I say ''protect the farmers'' because they are the innocent victims of this unfair assault. This is indeed an unparalleled assault on their crop.

The farmers need help—and a settlement bill must include this help—in order to restructure their debt to a manageable level. A long-term payment scheme will not service their debt because tobacco production will continue to drop. These farmers fear that the creditors will call the loans and the fire sales that follow will depress land and equipment prices. They can't sustain this assault by their own government.

I want to be sure that the next generation of farmers have opportunities to grow tobacco, and I will fight to make sure that they have those tools, because they are the future of our nation. They grow our food. In Sampson County, North Carolina, where I live, you see the slogan ''Support agriculture or try used food,'' and that sums it up. We cannot let our farmers suffer. We will not let our farmers suffer.

I look forward to this debate—I hope it will be a reasonable one rather than a tax-and-spend bonanza—and I look forward to the effort to prepare our farmers for the future.

Mr. JEFFORDS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I intend to offer an amendment at an appropriate time, probably around noon. What I want to talk about is national policy with respect to renewable energy.

I started on this issue back when I first came to Congress, which was in 1975, when this Nation woke up and realized that we were very vulnerable to the supply of oil. At that time, you may remember, we had lines of cars waiting for gasoline. We had terrible shortages. We realized that this Nation, in order to make sure that it had a future, had to do something about it. Working with my friends in the House, at that time we established a wind energy program, which is still going strong. We also increased the funding in research into solar energy and the advantages that it gives to our society to recognize that the Sun is a tremendous source of energy and that it can be harnessed. We also looked at biomass options as well.

Subsequent to that, when I came to the Senate, I also worked with the committee that handles it on the authorizing side. We developed a national policy. I had hoped that national policy would have mandated the course of action necessary to get this Nation to have 30 percent of its energy supplied by renewable sources. However, every word of my amendment was adopted except one, and that one was, instead of ''shall,'' it said ''may.'' That kind of switched things around as far as its importance. But the importance to continue to move forward to shift our dependence on foreign oil is something that has not gone away.

At that time, we established a chart of where we ought to be. Right now, under that chart of going towards 30 percent of our energy to come from renewable, it is at 10 percent. That is where we are supposed to be on course. We are not. We are at 8 percent.

What has happened now in this bill is that we have seen that renewables are cut and whereas, although things are perhaps more popular, or whatever items are increased, renewables are cut. Last year we got an additional $20 million approved, but when it got to conference, it disappeared. We are not making the kind of progress that this Nation needs in order to be able to become less dependent and, hopefully, someday independent of foreign sources.

If we look at the world situation now, we should understand that the largest amount of oil right now to take out of the ground, so to speak, is not available. The Crimean, which is one of the most volatile areas in the world, has the most oil that has to be looked to for the future. I think it is about 70 percent of what is available at the world level. The second area is the Persian Gulf. Obviously, neither of those is very close to us. So our dependency is increasing.

If you want to take a volatile area, you ought to take Crimea, right in the middle of one of the most volatile situations right now, including the areas of Pakistan all the way up through to Russia at the other end. And you have Iran and Iraq in the area. Those are areas that the pipelines would have to go through. Incredibly, also with expanding availability of nuclear weapons, these are very fragile areas. To think that we would have to rely upon them is very difficult. The same is true also, of course, with the Persian Gulf. Everyone is familiar with the problems we had in the Persian Gulf and the nonreliability at certain times of the availability of that oil.

The question is, What should we do? We decided years ago that we could get to 30 percent, really, with utilization and to a large extent of biomass, as well as wind and solar energy, and that we could do it with little or no increase in the cost of availability of the fuel, but it could give us the kind of utility we need. As I pointed out, we have not made any progress in recent years. In fact, we are sliding back from where we ought to be.

So the amendment that Senator ROTH and I will offer today is about priorities. I think we all agree that increased domestic energy production should be a priority. We would agree that a lower balance of payments should be a priority. We would stand up to U.S. companies selling U.S. manufactured energy technologies in overseas markets. We would cheer the increased jobs, which would mean for every State in the Nation. We would support the small companies across this Nation working to capture the booming global energy market. We would make it a priority to increase domestic energy production and promote clean air. But that is not what has happened here. The bill before us further whittles away at our Nation's efforts to wean itself from foreign oil.

The priorities in the bill for our Nation's energy policy go back years. This legislation will erode our efforts to develop technologies that increase domestic energy production. This bill ends commitments made to small energy companies that depend on Federal

assistance to enter the giant global energy market. The funding levels contained here reduce our Nation's efforts to make major advancements in energy development, energy that is affordable, that is a clean, and, most importantly, made in America.

Today, Senator ROTH and I offer an amendment to increase our Nation's investment in clean domestic production. The amendment would restore funding to the Department of Energy's renewable research and development budget.

Mr. President, the fiscal year 1999 energy and water appropriations bill cuts funding for solar, cuts funding for wind, cuts funding for biomass, cuts funding for hydrogen, cuts funding for geothermal, and cuts funding for hydropower research and development by $120 million, or 33 percent below the administration's request, and $20 million from the fiscal year 1998 level. This $380 million account takes a $120 million cut. The amendment we offer today simply attempts to add back half this level, or $70 million, to the renewables budget.

A vote for this amendment is a vote to reduce our country's dependence on foreign oil from rogue nations like Iraq. A vote for this amendment is a vote to support small businesses all across the United States that produce clean renewable energy products. A vote for this amendment is a vote to help the same small businesses grab onto a chunk of that rapidly growing export market for renewable products. A vote for this amendment is a vote for cleaner air for our children.

Mr. President, I am going to address each of these reasons of why my colleagues should support this bill in turn.

Nearly half of all of our Nation's oil is imported today. These imports account for almost $60 billion, or 36 percent; 36 percent of the trade deficit is in this one area. These are U.S. dollars being shipped overseas to the Middle East which could be put to better use here at home.

Consider the following chart, chart No. 1. This chart shows that the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that we will import even more of our oil, two-thirds of all oil we consume, by the year 2020. That means we will continue to be held hostage by oil-producing nations, including rogue nations like Iraq.

This chart, as you can see way out here, shows we are just going to have increased prices in oil and all sorts of difficulty as we get out to 2020. U.S. petroleum imports are expected to reach two-thirds of consumption in the year 2020.

Our second chart, Mr. President, shows that we are not alone in our increasing dependence on foreign sources of oil. The Energy Information Administration also predicts that by the year 2020 the Persian Gulf will supply one-half of the world's oil exports—one-half. Why would we continue to increase our addiction to that very volatile area of the world?

We can reduce our dependence on Persian oil by continuing our investment in a clean domestic energy. I believe that these charts demonstrate very clearly that action must be taken. The goals that we set a few years ago to say that we should be at 30 percent of renewables must be adhered to.

Chart No. 3 shows that the United States currently obtains 8 percent of our energy from renewable sources. That is OK, but we can do better. We should do better. We must do better. In fact, in 1991, during consideration of the Policy Act, the Congress agreed to an amendment to boost our percentage of renewable power to 20 percent by the year 2000 and 30 percent by the year 2010. How will we ever get there if we keep cutting our commitment to the small businesses across the Nation that are moving forward with these technologies?

Chart No. 3, as you can see, indicates what we had in 1996. We had petroleum, 38.1 percent; nuclear, 7.6; renewables, 7.9; coal, 22.4; natural gas, 24 percent.

This percentage—7.9—if we were on target, if we were doing what we agreed to do when the act was passed, would now be 10 percent. It is not approaching the goal that we have agreed upon as a national priority.

Chart No. 4 shows that renewable energy is produced in every State in the United States. I think all Senators ought to take that into consideration. What you are doing is hurting the small businesses located in every State in the United States. Every Senator in the United States is a stakeholder in the debate we are having on the floor today.

Let us take a look now at the next chart that we have. I think pictures make points better than words. I want to share with you pictures of a variety of renewable energy projects across the country.

This is chart No. 5. It shows the Kotzebue Electric Association village power project. It is in Alaska. It is a wind project coming about from the bill that was put into effect at the end of the 1970s.

This project will reduce emissions from diesel power and will reduce fuel transport costs to villagers. It is in existence. It is one that is easily replicated. It should be available, but we need to have more assistance, and we cannot cut back on that assistance which has been so productive in getting us the improvements we have had.

Chart No. 6, this shows you the geographic distribution throughout our Nation. It shows that in the State of Oklahoma we have taxpayer dollars employing a geothermal heat pump in the State capitol building. This is geothermal, which obviously is another available energy supply, but we still need to have the research and the ability to replicate and duplicate and to find out better ways to be able to tap and utilize geothermal.

Chart No. 7 gets to another—this one is where we have the most availability in this Nation and where we can proceed without in any way hampering the present energy sources. We have the ability in this Nation with all its agricultural resources to produce biomass energy which would allow us to go forward to get to the targeted goals. But that is cut back.

This is the Bioten Biomass Plant, Red Boiling Springs, TN. This project produces energy from sawdust and will test other biomass fuels including wood residues and agricultural wastes.

The next one we have is chart No. 8, which is the Stirling Dish Concentration Engine at Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, NM—a great State, New Mexico. This system, created through a public/private partnership, uses heat generated by the Sun's rays to produce utility grade electric power.

The next is a solar-powered school speed limit sign. This is an interesting use of solar energy—reducing dependence on electric power and ensuring that it works anytime the Sun is up, whether there are clouds or not.

Chart No. 10 is entitled ''Waterfront Office Buildings.'' Mr. President, not only do these projects currently help, but they will not be moving forward as fast as they could if we don't at least put some of the money back that is used to fund it. Waterfront office buildings, these are located in Louisville, KY. These buildings are heated and cooled by geothermal heat pumps, saving the hotel $25,000 per month in utility costs.

Mr. President, these are the types of things we are looking at.

I see my good friend and cosponsor is here. If he would like to take some time, I am happy to yield the floor to him.

Mr. ROTH. I thank the Senator. I appreciate his offer as I am in a conference on IRS and it is important that I get back there as promptly as possible.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak briefly on this most important amendment.

Mr. President, as you know, Senator JEFFORDS and I are offering an amendment today that will restore funding for renewable energy programs in the fiscal year 1999 energy and water appropriation's bill. The renewable energy program has been cut by 33 percent below the administration request and $27 million below fiscal year 1998 levels. This amendment would add $70 million back to the renewable budget restoring all programs to fiscal year 1998 levels and boosting some programs 10–20 percent more. Even with these increases, America's investment in wind, solar, biomass, and other clean energy technologies will be well below the funding levels of 3 years ago.

Mr. President, renewable energy technologies represent our best hopes for reducing air pollution, creating jobs and decreasing our reliance on imported oil and finite supplies of fossil fuels. Whatever one's position on the

issue of climate change—these programs promise to supply economically competitive and commercially viable exports. I believe that the nation should be looking toward alternative forms of energy, not taking a step backward by cutting funding for these important programs.

My own state of Delaware has a long tradition in solar energy. In 1972, the University of Delaware established one of the first photovoltaic laboratories in the nation. The university has been instrumental in developing photovoltaic cells, the same type of technology that powers solar watches and calculators.

Delaware has a major solar energy manufacturer, Astro Power, which is now the fastest growing manufacturer of photovoltaic cells in the world. In collaboration with the University of Delaware and Astro Power, Delaware's major utility—Delmarva Power & Light—has installed an innovative solar energy system that has successfully demonstrated the use of solar power to satisfy peak electrical demand. Through this collaboration, my State has demonstrated that solar energy technology can be an economically competitive and commercially viable energy alternative for the utility industry.

It is vital that we continue to manufacture these solar cell products with the high performance, high quality, and low costs required to successfully compete worldwide.

Investment in Department of Energy solar and renewable energy programs has put us on the threshold of explosive growth. Continuation of the present renewable energy programs is required to achieve the goal of a healthy photovoltaic industry in the United States.

While the solar energy industries might have evolved in some form on their own Federal investment has accelerated the transition from the laboratory bench to commercial markets in a way that has already accrued valuable economic benefits to the nation. Solar energy companies—like Astro Power—have already created thousands of jobs and helped to reduce our trade deficit through exports of solar energy systems overseas, mostly to developing nations, where 2 billion people are still without access to electricity.

International markets for solar energy systems are virtually exploding, due to several key market trends. Most notably, solar energy is already one of the lowest cost options available to developing countries that cannot afford to build large, expensive centralized power generation facilities with elaborate distribution systems.

The governments of Japan, Germany, and Australia are investing heavily in aggressive technology and market development in partnership with their own solar energy industries. Until recently, Japan and Germany held the lead in world market share for photovoltaics; the United States has only recently recaptured international market dominance.

Cutting funding for commercializing these technologies would have a chilling effect on the U.S. industry's ability to compete on an international scale in these billion-dollar markets of today and tomorrow. The employment potential of renewables represents a minimum of 15,000 new jobs this decade with nearly 120,000 the next decade.

Mr. President, I might also add biomass is another form of renewable energy with great potential. While traditionally biomass includes the use of wood chips and trash to create electricity, Maryland and Delaware are exploring the opportunities to use poultry manure as a biomass fuel. Manure used in this manner would not be spread on fields, a practice implicated by some as a cause of the recent outbreaks of pfiesteria.

The electricity generated by the plant could then be sold to electric companies, the ash from the burning manure could be marketed as an environmentally sensitive fertilizer. In England the poultry litter fueled electric plants produce over 38.5 megawatts of power and burn 440,000 tons of chicken manure a year.

The Jeffords/Roth amendment will restore the renewable energy accounts so that poultry manure fired plants and other renewable opportunities may become a real possibility in the future.

It is imperative that this Senate support renewable energy technologies and be a partner to an energy future that addresses our economic needs in an environmentally acceptable manner. My State has done and will continue to do its part. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will look to the future and do their part in securing a safe and reliable energy future by supporting this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The Chair recognizes the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Delaware for his very eloquent statement and for his dedication to trying to get this Nation on the course it needs to be, to get off its dependency on oil. It has been a pleasure working with him over the years, and I look forward to continuing to do so.

I also would like to add two other Senators as cosponsors of this amendment: Senator MOYNIHAN of New York, and also Senator ALLARD from Colorado.

Mr. President, when I turned over the discussion to Senator ROTH, we were in the middle of going through charts which demonstrate right now the tremendous effort that is going on, and what needs assistance to make it even better, because we are sliding behind the results at this point of where we ought to be from these charts.

The last one I showed, to start over again, is the Waterfront Office Building in Louisville, KY, where they are using geothermal—which, incidentally, can use heat to cool, which is sometimes a little confusing. But the way it uses its geothermal, it saves this hotel $25,000 a month.

Now, let us take a look at some of these other charts so everyone here has a better opportunity to understand the depth of interest and the depth of participation in this Nation by private enterprises which are trying to reduce the Nation's dependence upon oil. That enthusiasm is out there, but it needs to be assisted. It needs to be demonstrated that we can even do better than we are doing, and we are nowheres doing as much as we used to be.

The next chart, chart 11, indicates several States have greater wind potential than California, where the vast majority of wind development has occurred to date. The top 20 States for wind energy potential include North Dakota, Texas, Kansas, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Michigan, New York, Illinois, California, Wisconsin, Maine and Missouri. That just gives you an idea. We should add Vermont to that. Recently, we have opened our own wind production in the southern part of the State. But this shows the States right now, the top 20 States, as measured by their energy projections for wind. Obviously, wind is pretty free and there is a lot of it in this country. In fact, there is a lot of it right here in this Chamber, but we do need to better utilize it for a more effective presentation of our efforts to be able to save energy.

Now, let's look at the next chart we have, chart 12. Consider the two quotes on this chart. The first quote reads:

> In 1995, worldwide wind-power generation capacity was 4,900 megawatts. . . .

That is 1 million watts. That was China alone.

The second quote reads:

> In the past 10 years, PV sales worldwide have more than quadrupled . . . In developing countries, demand has risen significantly, fueled by the recognition that PV systems are an attractive option to rural electrification in isolated, inaccessible communities that are distant from the power—

Sources. Those are photovoltaics. PV is photovoltaics, taking the Sun and converting it, through utilization usually of silicon, to electricity. It is a wonderful source. It is free. It comes from the Sun, and it is increasing worldwide.

As it says here:

> In the past years, PV sales worldwide have more than quadrupled . . . In developing countries, demand has risen significantly, fueled by the recognition that photovoltaic systems are an attractive option for rural electrification in isolated, inaccessible communities that are distant from the power grid and have small electric requirements.

This is a tremendous source for exporting our technology and our systems around the world. In fact, when I was in the House, I did get an amendment attached which made demonstration projects at our embassies throughout the world to demonstrate how usable the Sun is to produce power and how effective it is.

In the past 10 years alone, photovoltaic sales worldwide have more than doubled. That is chart No. 12. American renewable businesses are taking advantage of these markets.

Consider this chart, chart No. 13. This chart shows a wind turbine produced by a small wind turbine manufacturer in my State. This turbine was built in Vermont and exported to Ontario, Canada. There is a large market for export of U.S. wind turbines to northern communities in Alaska, Canada and Russia. This is a picture of one. We have several of these in Vermont now. They are throughout the world, and they are not at all offensive. They are quiet. They make a lot of energy. This is a large market for companies in this country.

Although America is still a leader in developing renewable energy technologies, this lead may slip if we lower our renewable research and development funding. Europe and Japan continue to subsidize their renewable industry, putting U.S.-based companies at severe disadvantage.

For example, Japan, Germany and Denmark use tied aid, offer financing and provide export promotion for their domestic industries, and our industries have to compete with that. It is very difficult to do, but because of the success and the fact that we have advantages, they have been able to survive with great difficulty without having that assistance or loans. This is not the time to lose our lead or to cut funding out to this important industry.

Mr. President, there is one final reason why my colleagues should overwhelmingly support this amendment. This amendment is a vote for the environment. Renewable energy is largely free of the pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act.

Chart No. 14 demonstrates this. Consider this geothermal power plant in Dixie Valley, NV. This plant, which produces electricity for 100,000 people produces no NO_X emissions and 5 percent as much SO_X and CO_2 as a coal-fired power plant of the same size. Five percent, that is 95 percent reduction in the production of those pollutants. We need more of these plants, like the one in Dixie Valley, NV.

Renewable energy can have other environmental benefits as well. Consider the following projects, all of which turn waste products into energy.

Chart No. 15: Westinghouse Power Connection. This one is a biomass gasification test facility in Paia, Island of Maui, HI. A pilot project demonstrates potential to convert agricultural waste—sugar cane—into electricity. Again, back to biomass which has incredible use available to us.

The next chart shows Wheelabrator Shasta Energy Co., a biomass project in Shasta County, CA. This project converts wood wastes that would otherwise end up in landfills into 49 megawatts of electric power.

The next chart—if I am right, we should have 50, one for every State. We will see how we turn out here. This is the BC International Corporation biomass ethanol plant in Jennings, LA. This plant will be retrofitted to produce ethanol from sugar cane, bagasse and rice waste.

The next chart will also demonstrate the number of plants we have spread throughout the country. This is in Connecticut; a fuel cell power plant, Groton, CT. The fuel cell plant uses hydrogen from landfill gas that otherwise would be wasted to create electricity. It is another indication of the tremendous breadth of expertise we have in this Nation to produce. All we have to do is make sure we don't cut back in their planning and ability to create many of the experimental plants.

Let me now conclude by, again, reminding everyone, we are proposing to add $70 million in our amendment to the Department of Energy's solar, wind and renewable budget. Federal support for renewable energy research and development has been a major success story in the United States. Costs have declined, reliability has improved, and a growing domestic industry has been born. More work still needs to be done in basic research at our national labs and applied development to bring down the costs of production even further. This is a tremendous opportunity for this Nation to develop industries which will help us reduce our trade deficits.

This is not a vote which pits Senators from one region of the country against Senators from another region. I think I have shown that all regions of the country benefit from renewable energy. This is not a vote which pits probusiness Senators against proenvironmental Senators. I think I have shown that renewable energy is a clean, environmentally beneficial industry. This is not a vote which pits Democrats against Republicans.

Chart No. 19: Consider this quote from former President Bush in September 1991. President Bush stated:

> We must encourage environmentally responsible development of all U.S. energy resources, including renewable energy. Renewable energy does reduce demand upon our other finite natural resources. It enhances our energy security, and clearly, it protects the environment.

So just before I offer the amendment, I would like to thank my colleagues who are cosponsoring it with me and urge—urge—my colleagues to sincerely consider the tremendous advantages which this amendment will have and to remind you, at present, we are cutting back—while going forward on other less necessary projects—we are cutting back on that which is most critical to the future of this Nation in its ability to gain the semblance of energy independence. We are slipping behind the chart and the goals that we have established. We cannot cut back in the funding that will help us get there.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a table which sets forth the provisions in the amendment.

There being no objection, the table was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

	Fiscal year 1998	Fiscal year 1999 President	Fiscal year 1999 Committee mark	Mark to 1999 (percent)	Mark to President (percent)	To get to fiscal year 1998	Plus specific adds	Plus 50 percent of what President asked for	Total adds
Solar energy:									
Solar building technology research	2,720	5,000	3,600	+32	−28			260	260
PV energy systems	66,511	78,800	57,100	−14	−27	9,411		6,445	15,856
Solar thermal energy systems	16,775	22,500	17,100	+2	−24		2,000	2,517.5	4,517.50
Biomass—Biopower	28,600	42,900	22,800	−20	−47	5,800		7,150	12,950
Biomass—Biofuels	31,150	46,891	36,213	+16	−44		2,000	2,870.5	4,870.50
Wind energy systems	33,030	43,500	33,200		−24			5,065	5,065
REPI	3,000	4,000	3,000		−25			1000	1,000
Solar program support	0	14,000	4,000	n/a	−71			3,000	3,000
International solar energy program	1,375	8,800	3,400	+247	−61			1,687.5	1,687.5
Solar technology transfer	0	1,360	0		−100			680	680
NREL	1,000	5,000	1,000		−80			4,000	4,000
Construction: 96 E–	2,200	0	0	−100					
Total, solar	186,361	272,751	181,423	−1	−29				
Geothermal	29,500	33,000	18,000	−39	−45	11,500		1,750	13,250
Hydrogen research	16,250	24,000	29,000	+79	+21				
Hydropower	750	4,000	4,000	+533					
Renewable Indian energy resources	4,000	0	4,000		n/a				
Electric energy systems and storage	44,450	38,500	42,500	−4	+11				
Federal building/Remote power initiative	5,000	0	3,000	−40	n/a	2,000			2,000
Program direction	15,651	17,000	15,651		−8			674.5	674.50
Subtotal	301,652	389,251	297,574	−1	−24				
Use of prior year balances			0						
Total	301,962	389,251	297,574	−1	−24	28,711	4,000	37,100	69,811

AMENDMENT NO. 2715

(Purpose: To increase funding for energy supply, research, and development activities relating to renewable energy sources, with an offset)

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, is my amendment at the desk?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS], for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MOYNIHAN and Mr. ALLARD, proposes an amendment numbered 2715.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 21, lines 2 and 3, strike ''$699,836,000, to remain available until October 1, 2000, of which'' and insert ''$758,854,000, to remain available until October 1, 2000, of which not less than $3,860,000 shall be available for solar building technology research, not less than $72,966,000 shall be available for photovoltaic energy systems, not less than $21,617,500 shall be available for solar thermal energy systems (of which not less than $3,000,000 shall be available for the dish/engine field verification initiative), not less than $35,750,000 shall be available for power systems in biomass/biofuels energy systems, not less than $41,083,500 shall be available for transportation in biomass/biofuels energy systems (of which not less than $3,000,000 shall be available to fund the Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research), not less than $38,265,000 shall be available for wind energy systems, not less than $4,000,000 shall be available for the renewable energy production incentive program, not less than $7,000,000 shall be available for solar program support, not less than $5,087,500 shall be available for the international solar energy program, not less than $680,000 shall be available for solar technology transfer, not less than $5,000,000 shall be available for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, not less than $31,250,000 shall be available for geothermal technology development, not less than $5,000,000 shall be available for the Federal building/Remote power initiative, not less than $16,325,500 shall be available for program direction,''.

On page 36, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 3. OFFSETTING REDUCTIONS.

Each amount made available under the headings ''NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT'', ''URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND'', ''SCIENCE'', AND ''DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION'' under the heading ''ENERGY PROGRAMS'' and ''CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)'' under the heading ''POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS'' is reduced by 1.586516988447 percent.

Prior year balances may not be reduced if they are obligated under an existing written agreement or contract to laboratories, universities or industry.

Appropriate use of funds to support meetings and technical conferences are allowed consistent with DOE's mission.

Funding increases for this amendment are for cost-shared RD&D, deployment, and technology transfer via technical and trade associations and allied non-governmental organizations.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I strongly support the Jeffords/Roth Amendment to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, which will substantially increase funding for renewable energy programs.

The Jeffords/Roth amendment is critical to an industry that will be at the forefront of energy production in the next century. Renewable energy will bring major economic benefits and major environmental benefits to the nation. This amendment provides us with the opportunity to become leaders in this booming global market.

At the same time, increased renewable energy technology will decrease our dependence on foreign oil and reduce the trade deficit. We will have greater protection from harmful oil price shocks. Funding for renewable energy now will clearly strengthen our competitiveness in the worldwide energy market for the 21st century.

Equally important, the Jeffords/Roth amendment reaffirms the nation's commitment to the environment. Renewable energy enables us to reduce the emissions from other energy sources that are polluting our air and water. It helps to curb the largest current source of pollution in the United States—energy production and energy use. Bringing innovative research from the laboratory to the market will also ensure the protection of our limited natural resources for a sustainable future.

Currently, millions of Americans already obtain electricity from renewable energy sources. These advances are just a hint of the possibilities of cleaner, safer energy production in the years ahead. This amendment allows the U.S. to maintain its leading role in global clean energy technology. I support this amendment, and I commend Senators JEFFORDS and ROTH for their leadership in protecting our environment and our economy.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have the pleasure of joining Senator JEFFORDS to rise in support of the renewable energy programs within the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. First, I would like to thank Senator DOMENICI for accepting the Jeffords/Roth amendment to increase funding for these vital programs. With the dramatic changes taking place in the energy sector, our nation is faced with many opportunities to increase our consumption of renewable energy sources. There are two trends in the energy sector converging to make this change possible—utility restructuring and decreasing costs for renewable energy.

In my home State of Vermont, renewable technology companies are building wind turbines that are used in Europe, the Far East and South America. Unfortunately, the United States is behind much of the world in adopting wind and other renewable energy technology. Much more work needs to be done to spur the utilization of renewable energy. Although the cost of renewable energy has decreased significantly over the last decade, it still must compete against the artificially low cost of fossil energy. As we see the level of mercury and other heavy metals increase in our lakes while the views of our mountains are obscured by air pollutants—the need to find alternative sources of energy becomes all the more vivid.

Recent articles have highlighted the public's interest in maintaining renewable power as an option for meeting their energy needs. The last two decades have witnessed a decline in the cost of renewable energy. Research by the Energy Department and the commitment of private energy companies has produced this decline. As a nation, we must build upon this partnership and encourage the private sector to continue to develop cost-reducing technology. Unfortunately, the recent trend in federal research funding has not supported this partnership.

Wind Energy Research and development program has been extraordinarily successful in bringing down the cost of wind-generated electricity. To allow expansion of this large resource base, and to allow wind energy to be competitive in an era of utility restructuring that emphasizes low initial cost and independent power projects, significant improvements to the technology are still needed to reach the Program's goal of 2.5 cents per kilowatt by 2000. In addition, research and analysis relating to restructuring in the electric utility industry should be conducted on issues associated with integration of wind and other renewable energy systems into an increasingly competitive industry framework.

Vermont is also leading the country in the deployment of biomass technology—both large and small. We are proud that the Department of Energy selected the McNeil Plant in Burlington to conduct a full scale demonstration of biomass gasification. In February, the project made history when the plant produced gas for fuel from wood chips. The effort at McNeil to demonstrate how our country can produce energy from renewable crops makes sense to Vermonters who have already embraced biomass as a renewable source of energy. Twenty State office buildings and eighteen schools use biomass for heat during the winter.

By increasing funding for renewable energy by $65 million, the Jeffords/Roth amendment will help us make this leap. Mr. President, this amendment makes sense for our future and our children's future. Our children should be able to enjoy sustainable, clean and renewable energy.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I compliment and applaud the Senator from Vermont and those who have joined in this amendment. As we have said earlier, the administration recommended a higher level for this particular program—solar and renewable. The movers of this amendment have also recommended that this

body move higher with solar and renewable. I think that their efforts are certainly to be congratulated.

It is a very difficult bill, as we have explained on other occasions. There is a limited amount of money to do a number of different things. The Senator from Vermont has done a very good job of explaining the importance of renewable energy in this country. Of course, he mentioned a number of programs in Nevada that are important. We have geothermal. We have solar that we are working on. So we certainly look forward to working with him on this amendment.

I am waiting for the manager to come back. I think there is a good chance we may accept this amendment. I know it is acceptable on this side.

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. JEFFORDS. 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. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, after discussions with the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking member, I understand that we are in a position where the amendment can be accepted with striking a certain provision. I am doing that and am going to accept that proposition with the understanding that there will be a strong effort to fight to maintain the amendment as best they can in the committee of conference, because the history has been that on these amendments, which have been accepted in the past, they kind of disappear in conference. But I have the good-faith-effort commitment of the Senator from New Mexico, and I accept that, as I know him and I know his character; and the same with the Senator from Nevada.

So, Mr. President, I now move to amend my amendment by striking all after line 8 on page 3 of the amendment.

Mr. DOMENICI. Would you not do that for a moment?

Mr. JEFFORDS. I withdraw my request.

Mr. DOMENICI. I don't want any misunderstanding. I don't want the Senator withdrawing that based upon a unilateral statement that he has made.

I think I must make my statement in the RECORD.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I appreciate that.

Mr. DOMENICI. Then the Senator can do whatever he wants—leave it in and we have a fight or take it out and we accept it.

Mr. President, I am not committing that I will return in the conference with this fully funded. I don't know that I can do that. What I am suggesting is I will do my dead-level best. I don't go there with the intention of throwing the amendment away. I go there intending to try to see if we can fund it. I have every confidence that we will find some money to exceed what is in the bill. Now, whether it can be exactly this amount or not, I have no idea at this point. That will be the dynamics, and a lot of things in the amendment that are very difficult that I am not agreeing to right now.

I am agreeing to accept the amendment and we will take it to conference on those terms. The Senator can rely on what I have just said.

With that, if he will remove the handwritten part that was added, that is fine. If he does not want to, then clearly I don't have any reluctance to having a full-blown debate on this amendment today. I have plenty of time. I don't want to do that if we can get it done the way we have just talked about, otherwise we will just proceed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have already said that I appreciate the offer of the amendment by the Senator from Vermont and the statement by the Senator from Delaware.

I have indicated that Senator DOMENICI and I have had and will work to increase the number that we have in this bill. We have all been to conferences and we will do the very best we can. I believe in these programs. I think it would be to everyone's interest that we go ahead on that basis. I don't think it would serve anyone's interest, after we have agreed to accept this amendment, to now have a full debate on it. If, in fact, my friend from Vermont wants one, we can do that. There are things in the program we can all talk about that I think would be better left for a later time.

But I will do my share with the chairman of the subcommittee, with those of us on this side of the aisle in the conference, to do everything we can to raise the number as high as we can.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to modify his amendment?

Mr. JEFFORDS. I want to, first of all, make a comment or two. I thank both the leaders on this bill. I respect their comments. I also know that you cannot promise anything when you get into conference, but I will also be watching very carefully because in the past we have not had any success in holding these amendments.

I understand, though, that the administration is strongly in favor of more funding. I understand there may be additional funding in the health provision, so I expect that we will be able to get a significant increase at this time.

AMENDMENT NO. 2715, AS MODIFIED

Mr. DOMENICI. Has the modification taken place?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The modification has not taken place yet.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I send a modification of my amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is so modified.

The amendment, (No. 2715) as modified, is as follows:

On page 21, lines 2 and 3, strike "$699,836,000, to remain available until October 1, 2000, of which" and insert "$758,854,000, to remain available until October 1, 2000, of which not less than $3,860,000 shall be available for solar building technology research, not less than $72,966,000 shall be available for photovoltaic energy systems, not less than $21,617,500 shall be available for solar thermal energy systems (of which not less than $3,000,000 shall be available for the dish/engine field verification initiative), not less than $35,750,000 shall be available for power systems in biomass/biofuels energy systems, not less than $41,083,500 shall be available for transportation in biomass/biofuels energy systems (of which not less than $3,000,000 shall be available to fund the Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research), not less than $38,265,000 shall be available for wind energy systems, not less than $4,000,000 shall be available for the renewable energy production incentive program, not less than $7,000,000 shall be available for solar program support, not less than $5,087,500 shall be available for the international solar energy program, not less than $680,000 shall be available for solar technology transfer, not less than $5,000,000 shall be available for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, not less than $31,250,000 shall be available for geothermal technology development, not less than $5,000,000 shall be available for the Federal building/Remote power initiative, not less than $16,325,500 shall be available for program direction,".

On page 36, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 3___ OFFSETTING REDUCTIONS.

Each amount made available under the headings "NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT", "URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND", "SCIENCE", and "DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION" under the heading "ENERGY PROGRAMS" and "CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)" under the heading "POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS" is reduced by 1.586516988447 percent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, we have no further debate on the amendment. We are going to accept it.

I will make a little comment about what happened to the budget from the President of the United States as it pertains to this bill. First of all, the President of the United States, in the budget he submitted to the U.S. Congress, is responsible for the fact that we don't have enough money to do the renewables that the distinguished Senator from Vermont comes to the floor and adds money for. The President of the United States took the water projects of this country—and these are not pet projects, these are the ports that have to be dredged in our country, dams that have to be built for flood protection, just a whole litany of them everywhere—he cut them $1.3 billion.

Frankly, all I can see in that kind of a cut is that he expected us to put the money back because we could not have kept the Corps of Engineers together with their projects out across our land. We could not have kept a viable program. Mr. President, $1.3 billion is a dramatic cut from what was needed for funding at the acceptable rate that the

projects were in last year—not new ones. That money makes up the same pot of money from whence comes all of the DOE's nondefense research projects and all the water projects.

So we start off with that one pot of money, short $1.3 billion, and the President picked and chose what he would like to increase. As a matter of fact, he increased certain water projects that he has been for and forgot about the water projects that the rest of the Congress has been for, including very important projects.

Now, in order to get around that, we had to find money from places that he had dramatically increased. Even at that, we only funded those projects at between 60 and 70 percent, meaning it will cost us more money in the long run, the projects will be delayed, and some of them are very big, important projects for commerce such as ports that are to be dredged, with facilities to be built.

It wasn't, when we put this bill together, that with some kind of gusto we set about to dramatically reduce the programs that are the subject matter before the Senate right now. It was that we had an obligation to fund that fund at 60 or 70 percent. That is all we could do for the myriad of water projects across this land which have a tremendous economic impact and which save much property and save much life when they are completed.

Now, that puts in the position we are when we come to the floor here. Everybody understands that we are not going to have it much easier in conference, although thanks to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee a little more money was allocated to this committee than the President's budget because of the water project dilemma that I have just described.

Now, that is the essence of why this bill has difficulty. It is not even funded in many areas as high as it was last year. Certainly, the water projects don't have sufficient resources to stay on the course that was there. That was the best course, the optimum course, in terms of efficiency and getting the projects done so that we would save lives and save property at the earliest time.

Having said that, with no objection from the ranking member on the other side, we will accept this amendment and do our very best in conference to see that solar energy and the items mentioned in the amendment, that the funding is increased from what we had in our bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2715), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. DOMENICI. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay it on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank Senator JEFFORDS for his cooperation.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I thank the chairman of the committee as well as the ranking member for their assistance in this. I am hopeful we are making an important step forward here in our energy self-reliance.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, in stark contrast to the last 3½ weeks, this bill is moving along very rapidly. I announce to the Senate that we can, indeed, finish this bill by midafternoon. The amendments that we are aware of that have come either through the minority, through my good friend, Senator REID, or through our side, are being worked on and we don't think there is a rollcall vote necessary on any of those. There is one amendment that the distinguished Senator from Indiana, the junior Senator from Indiana, intends to offer. It is not related exactly, to this bill, but he indicates that he will be here about 2 o'clock.

In the meantime, we are going to try to work on the amendments we have and see if we can put a package together and accept them. That will be all we will have until 2 o'clock, unless some Senator has some amendment of which we are unaware.

I really want to make sure that everybody knows I have checked with the leader. He knows of no other business on this bill, and he wants to finish this afternoon. By 2 o'clock I hope we can have the Indiana Senator call up his amendment. Again, I indicate that is the last amendment we know about.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we would like to go to third reading early this afternoon. I say, also, to elaborate on what my friend from New Mexico says, there has been a lot of partisan rancor on this floor the last several weeks. But as I said when we introduced this bill yesterday, there are times on this Senate floor—a lot more often than people are led to believe—when things move along very well, in a bipartisan fashion. There is no better example of that than every year when we get to the appropriations bills. Sometimes we have partisan problems, but not often. I think the two leaders of this Appropriations Committee, the senior Senator from Alaska and the senior Senator from West Virginia, have set a very good tone as to how we should move on these bills. They work very well together, and they have for many years. The Senator from New Mexico and I have worked together for a number of years on this bill.

This is a good bill, a very important bill for this country, not only for domestic purposes, water projects, but also for the security of this Nation. Much of what is in this $21 billion appropriations bill deals with security of this Nation, our nuclear arsenal—the safety and reliability of our nuclear arsenal.

So I say to my friends in the Senate that not everything we do is partisan in nature. There are certain things that rise above that. This bill is one of those times when partisanship should have no bearing, as it hasn't in the last several years.

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. DOMENICI. 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. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I have already stated for the RECORD and for the Senators what the situation is on this bill.

The managers' staffs are working on a managers' wrap-up amendment, which we think we can have done by 2 o'clock. Senator COATS will be here to offer an amendment. There will be nothing we can do until 2 o'clock.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

AMBASSADOR BILL RICHARDSON TO BECOME SECRETARY OF ENERGY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today an announcement was made by the President that we are going to have a new Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson, a former Congressman from the State of New Mexico, now our ambassador to the United Nations.

In 1982, I came to the Congress with Bill Richardson. We were both in the class of 1982. He had a long and distinguished career in the House where he served honorably on a number of committees, including Commerce. Of course, during the time he was a Member of the House of Representatives, he did some very unusual but very important diplomatic maneuvers—freeing various people held as political prisoners, and other efforts, which were extremely important, not only to this country but for world peace. The President had recognized that and he selected Bill Richardson to be our ambassador to the United Nations, where he has served honorably.

The need for former Congressman Richardson, now Ambassador Richardson, to return to Washington has been noticed by the President. As a result of Secretary Pena retiring, we now have a tremendous need for someone who understands Washington, and certainly Bill Richardson does that; someone who understands Government, and certainly Bill Richardson does understand Government; someone who has an understanding of the importance of the Energy Department, and Bill Richardson has that understanding based upon