

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