

have to understand that these are critical bills that must be addressed. And the only way we can address them, as she correctly points out, is through the cooperative effort of both parties, and I would hope both leaders.

Mr. REID. Will the leader yield just for one more brief question?

Mr. DASCHLE. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. REID. There have been comments the last several days about what has happened in the last year. I want the RECORD to be spread with the fact—I want this confirmed by the leader—one of the assignments you gave me as assistant leader was that when difficult matters arose on the floor, one of my assignments directly from our leader—TOM DASCHLE to HARRY REID—was to do what you can, HARRY REID, to help move legislation. If it benefited the Republicans, I still had that responsibility. And there are many statements in the RECORD by Senator LOTT of how he appreciated the work we did—my name was mentioned on occasion—to move legislation.

I did that because you believed it was the right thing to do to move legislation. That is why we were able to move eight appropriations bills last year—does the Senator remember that—before the August recess?

Mr. DASCHLE. I remember that vividly. I remember how it was that we were able to work through these important matters, because we understood that October 1st is the deadline to complete all of our work on appropriations and that when you fall short of that deadline, you find yourself in a very precarious situation, making decisions without careful thought and, in some cases, making mistakes.

We want to complete our work on time. We want to be able to finish these bills. I appreciate so much the cooperation, the effort, and the leadership shown by the Senator from Nevada in reaching that goal.

Mr. REID. Does the Senator from South Dakota, our distinguished majority leader, agree that when you were the minority leader, one of your primary responsibilities was to move legislation, no matter whether it was sponsored by a Democrat or a Republican, but to move legislation off this floor?

Mr. DASCHLE. By and large, that was exactly what we attempted to do. Obviously, there were many times when there were disagreements, but we tried to work through those disagreements. I am hopeful we can do so again in the coming week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I will return the floor to the Senator in just one brief minute. I just want to say that I think no one knows more than I do how passionately this majority leader, the then-minority leader, worked with us to get legislation passed. That is why I repeat, eight appropriations bills were passed in this body last year before the August re-

cess. That was hard work. It only came as a result of the direction of the majority leader saying, we have to get this stuff done, that is the responsible thing for this country; and we did it.

I know there are people who come in and make little snippets about the fact that things have happened in the past. Look at our record. Look at our record of how we helped move legislation. Of course, there were disagreements on our side, but they passed quickly. Lots of amendments were filed on bills. We worked through those.

I just say, I hope people will look at what we did and work with us to try to move legislation. We want to do that. If we do something that is good, there is credit for everyone to go around. If we do not do things, there is blame to go around, as well it should. But the blame now should be with the minority because they simply have not allowed us to proceed on important legislation for this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I have noted with interest the comments of Senators DASCHLE and REID regarding unfinished legislative work before the recess. What is also unfinished business before the recess is nominations. Over the past week, Senator REID and I have had a series of continued conversations regarding nominations, and we will continue to talk in good faith to make progress on nominations.

But our unfinished work here in the Senate is not just legislative in nature. It is necessary that we work hard to clear a sizable number of nominations before the recess, to give the President the public servants he needs to staff his administration, make it run, have it work, and see it accountable to the American people.

I look forward to seeing the Senate head towards the recess with work on both the legislative and executive calendars. I yield the floor.

#### PLIGHT OF DETAINED PERMANENT UNITED STATES RESIDENT LIU YAPING IN INNER MONGOLIA

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I rise today to bring to my colleague's attention a terribly distressing, and I am afraid, all too familiar situation; the arrest and detention of American citizens and permanent residents traveling in China. I specifically want to comment on the case of Mr. Liu Yaping.

Mr. Liu is a resident of my home State of Connecticut and is married to a United States citizen. He has an American son and has been granted permanent residency in this country. Nevertheless, on a trip to his home country of China this past spring, he was abruptly detained and arrested on charges of tax evasion. More than four months after his initial arrest, the evidence against him for this alleged crime has yet to be produced by the Chinese authorities, and he has not been officially charged with a crime. In the meantime, he is being detained indefinitely.

Liu Yaping has been held in near isolation in Inner Mongolia, and we suspect that he may have been mistreated during his time in prison. He has been unable to contact his family, and because he is a permanent resident of the U.S., and not a citizen, he has been denied the right to consult with United States diplomats while in detention. He has been granted only very limited access to his attorneys, and has been unable to answer the charges against him.

The most troubling part of this story is that we have learned that Mr. Liu is ill and may die at any moment. It has been reported that he is suffering from a cerebral aneurysm, possibly caused by torture or beatings, for which he has gone largely untreated. Without immediate and appropriate medical attention, the aneurysm will continue to leak, and the danger is very real that he will die. His family has asked to review his medical records, but thus far this request has been denied. Instead, they receive only bills for medical services performed, without documentation or description. Mr. Liu's family has asked that he be transferred to a hospital in Beijing, but this request has been rejected by the Chinese government.

I cannot begin to imagine the toll that this ordeal has taken on Mr. Liu's wife, and 15 year-old son. Knowing their loved one is alone and in danger, they wait anxiously for any notice from the Chinese authorities indicating that his situation has improved. Mrs. Liu has been in steady contact with my office and grows increasingly distraught with each day that passes with no news of her husband. The U.S. embassy in China, despite their best efforts, has not been able to make inroads in this case, and due to Mr. Liu's grave medical condition, time has become an important factor when considering his case.

We cannot allow gross human rights violations to continue on our watch. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that our citizens and permanent residents receive just and equal treatment at home and abroad.

As my colleagues know, in the past year, several American citizens and permanent residents have been detained in China. Gao Zhan, an American University researcher, was sentenced to 10 years on July 24, after a