

I commend all of you, Senator INOUE, Senator STEVENS, and Senator BYRD, for the work that has been done here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I concur in the comments made by the Republican leader. We should note that this completes our work on all 13 appropriations bills. I commend both the chair and the ranking member for their work in getting us to this point. This was not easy, especially this year. It would not have happened were it not for the tremendous effort made by each of the subcommittee chairs. I note especially the efforts of the Senator from Hawaii on the Defense appropriations bill, the largest of all bills with which we had to contend.

I congratulate them. I thank them. I note, again, the great work they have done in getting us to this point.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
H.R. 3210

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I have a unanimous consent request to propound at this time. There will be many other unanimous consent requests made over the course of this afternoon. We will certainly notify Senators as they are propounded so that those who have an interest in a particular issue can be in the Chamber when we make them. Let me begin.

I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 252, H.R. 3210, and the only amendment in order be a Dodd-Sarbanes-Schumer substitute amendment, that the substitute be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, reserving the right to object—I will object—I have a different approach in mind on this which I would like to propound.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, the Republican leader and I have agreed that we would keep the remarks involving these unanimous consent requests to a minimum at this point to accommodate those Senators who are still waiting to speak on the Defense appropriations conference report. I would like to respect our earlier commitment to them that they would have the opportunity to make their remarks. But we will certainly entertain these unanimous consent requests without extended comments. I appreciate everyone's cooperation in that regard.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, will the leader yield for a question?

Mr. DASCHLE. Yes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I was simply going to suggest that he modify his unanimous consent request. I was not going to make a speech.

Mr. DASCHLE. I would be happy to entertain the modification.

Mr. McCONNELL. I was going to suggest the majority leader modify his unanimous consent request to adopt one amendment on each side with regard to liability only.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I appreciate the recommendation and proposal made by the Senator from Kentucky. I know this has been the subject of a good deal of discussion. There is no doubt the issue of liability will be a matter that will have to be addressed. But if we open it up to any amendment at this late hour, there is little likelihood we can complete our work in time for us to be able to go to conference before the holidays begin.

For that reason, I would have to object.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
H.R. 3529

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3529, which is the stimulus package received from the House. I further ask unanimous consent that there be 60 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; further, I ask that at the expiration or yielding back of that time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, with points of order waived.

Before the Chair rules on this unanimous consent request, I add that if there is any additional debate time—if 2 or 3 hours would be needed—I will certainly amend my unanimous consent request to accommodate more debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I offer an alternative and make it a proposal that we amend the unanimous consent request made by the distinguished Republican leader as the following: That the amendment include a substitute amendment that I have at the desk which would extend unemployment insurance coverage for 13 weeks, and that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I want to make sure I understand the proposal: That we would not have a vote on that addition but to just include it in the package. Is that correct?

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, we have already indicated, of course, to all of our colleagues that we would not have any additional rollcall votes today. We would have to accommodate this request with simply a voice vote on the substitute.

Basically, what we are suggesting is that since we cannot reach agreement on the overall economic stimulus, the

one piece for which there is general agreement is the need to extend unemployment insurance. We did it three times in the early 1990s, recognizing that the limited regular benefit period of time was inadequate for a lot of those who are out of work.

Again, without getting into extended remarks, I would simply, by explanation, note that would be the intent of this unanimous consent request, which is to substitute economic stimulus with the 13-week extension.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, under those conditions, I would have to object.

Let me just say that if we can set it up in a way to have a rollcall vote on that rather than a voice vote to make that very substantial change, I think we need to do both, and therefore I would have to object to that modification.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Hawaii.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, pursuant to the unanimous consent agreement, I would like to proceed with my statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I am happy to rise today to offer my unqualified support for the conference agreement on H.R. 3338, the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2002.

I am pleased to present the recommendations to the Senate today, as division A of this bill.

The recommendations contained herein are the result of lengthy negotiations between the House and Senate managers and countless hours of work by our staffs acting on behalf of all members.

The agreement provides \$317.2 billion, the same as the House and Senate levels, consistent with our 302b allocations.

As in all conference agreements, neither side, nor any individual member had every issue go his or her way. It represents a compromise.

It is one that protects the interests of both houses while clearly meeting our national defense responsibilities.

For the information of all Senators, I should point out that the bill provides more funding for our men and women in uniform than was recommended by either body.

I want to note to all my colleagues that this would not have been possible without the tremendous cooperation that I have received from Senator STEVENS and his able staff led by Steve Cortese with Ms. Margaret Ashworth, Kraig Siracuse, Alycia Farrell, and Mr. John Kem, on detail from DOD.