

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE
EXPANSION ACT—Resumed

Mr. LOTT. What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3009) to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Daschle amendment No. 3386, in the nature of a substitute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader

AMENDMENT NO. 3399

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] proposes an amendment numbered 3399.

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

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the pending Lott amendment:

Trent Lott, Don Nickles, Phil Gramm, Chuck Grassley, Rick Santorum, Mitch McConnell, Bill Frist, Craig Thomas, Judd Gregg, Frank H. Murkowski, Jon Kyl, Michael D. Crapo, James M. Inhofe, Thad Cochran, Chuck Hagel, Pat Roberts.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Daschle amendment—

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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 I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, our goal this afternoon is to get to a process or an agreement that allows the Senate to

deal with the very important issues pending before the Senate: trade promotion authority, the Andean Trade Preservation Act, the GSP, as well as the trade adjustment assistance. These are four very big issues, very important for our country and other countries—in the case of the Andean area—and for the workers of this country.

The way it has been put together, it is very difficult to work through all of these issues and get a result. Serious efforts are underway to see if we can achieve an agreement that produces a result.

We also have to deal with a process issue, how to make that happen. A few moments ago, I filed a first-degree amendment to the Andean Trade Preference Act and filed cloture. I think that is the way to proceed. I think we need a showing of who wants to get trade promotion authority and how we will move this to a conclusion. I want to do that and I know Senator DASCHLE wants to do that, too—find a way to get to conclusion and produce a result.

I was within my rights to seek that recognition and offer that amendment. I did so in good faith with the recognition that if I didn't, some further motion or procedure might have been offered by Senator DASCHLE or Senator REID.

Having said that, Senator REID and Senator NICKLES and others were in the Chamber. They had an agreement on how to proceed, and they felt this was not fair under the understanding that had been worked out. I always try to make sure we play above board and fair with everybody. Senator REID has always been fair with both sides, and he felt this was not the right way to proceed at this point.

After a lot of discussion, I will move to vitiate that action. But I do want to emphasize—and then I presume Senator DASCHLE may announce we would have a period of further discussion as we continue to work on this issue—I do think this is the correct way to proceed. We should not get off the trade legislation and go to any other issue. We are on the verge of beginning to make progress. If we let up, I think the momentum will stop.

I had to explain what happened and why I am doing this. I have heard stories from the past of how Senators have come to the aid of Senators on the other side of the aisle saying, no, this was not the fair way to do it, even if it might have appeared to be fair. We want to always try to do that with each other.

AMENDMENT NO. 3399 WITHDRAWN

Therefore, I ask to vitiate the cloture motion I filed and withdraw the amendment I filed.

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

The amendment (No. 3399) was withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Republican leader for his understanding and his willingness to act in good faith. I appreciate very much the explanation that he has made. I know it was not his intention and he was not aware of the circumstances that had been agreed to prior to the time he came to the floor. We certainly know how these things work and appreciate his willingness to rescind his actions.

There are a number of Senators who would want to be heard on issues that are important to them. As we continue to await further word about the progress of the discussions and negotiations underway, I see no reason we cannot continue to allow the Senate to proceed as if in morning business.

I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed as in morning business under the arrangements previously authorized in the Senate for a period not to exceed 90 minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. Reserving the right to object, I will not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. The majority leader understands the point I was trying to make. Next week at this time, the Andean Trade Preference Act expires and back tariffs will be levied on four impoverished countries, one which is experiencing a revolution. The majority leader does understand the reason for the cloture motion, but I understand there will be an objection if we wanted to move to ATPA, and that is why the Republican leader filed the cloture motion.

I hope the majority leader understands this is an issue that is pressing in time. We need to move forward with it. That may require a cloture motion either by the majority leader or the Republican leader.

I do not object.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I ask for 2 minutes prior to Senator BYRD.

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent my consent request be amended in that fashion.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, again I ask unanimous consent the Senate be in morning business for 90 minutes and accommodate Senator REID's request for 2 minutes prior to the time Senator BYRD is recognized.

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

ATPA

Mr. DASCHLE. Let me respond briefly to the Senator from Arizona. Nobody wants ATPA passed more than I do. I have attempted in many different ways over the last several weeks to