

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY
LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the announcements regarding the schedule of the distinguished majority leader. I simply say that I think the debate on homeland security this week has been a good one. I credit the chairman, as well as our ranking member, Senator BYRD, for the vigorous debate we have had on a number of issues relating to homeland security. We still have a number of amendments left to be resolved today, and I expect it will take a good part of the day before we are able to finish.

I can also appreciate the majority leader's desire to get as much work done prior to the August recess as possible, and his desire to move to other appropriations bills is understandable. However, I must say—and I have said privately and publicly—that his decision to wait until next week to begin and then finish the Energy bill leaves open the possibility that we will not finish, unless he is prepared to stay longer than next Friday. We have 382 amendments. That is about 77 amendments a day. I know some of those amendments will melt away, as oftentimes happens. But we have not seen the electricity title.

I am told there are other portions of the bill that are being revised as we speak. Senators cannot even offer amendments to those portions of the bill because they have not seen the draft. So it presents some logistical as well as really substantive questions and problems that, unfortunately, complicate the schedule even more and the majority leader's understandable desire to finish.

So I just warn my colleagues that, as much as I would like to see an Energy bill passed, we have a lot of concerns and some misgivings about the current bill. We hope we can address the renewable portfolio standard, the conservation issues, and a whole array of issues that have yet to be resolved. We have not been able to do that. So we are rolling the dice, in a way, and gambling, in a sense, that we can somehow accommodate all of these questions, all of this debate, and these very serious issues in a matter of a couple of days. I do not know how one does that. Obviously, it is certainly the majority leader's right to make these decisions so long as we all are aware of the challenges it presents and the complications to completion it would anticipate.

I again warn my colleagues and certainly in a most sincere way express a desire to complete the work, but we have to have time to do that. We do not have, in my view, adequate time with that schedule to complete the work on the Energy bill, as much as we would like to do that.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

I also note the majority leader talked to another issue we have been dis-

cussing on and off for a long time. I believe it is 48 days since we made the effort initially to reinstate the tax credit that was eliminated when the tax bill was signed into law for those whose incomes fall below \$26,000. There are 12 million children—200,000 children of military families—who were intentionally left out of the legislation the majority leader referenced a moment ago. That has troubled us.

We have attempted on several occasions to reinstate that tax credit for those millions of families left out. We had a motion to proceed a couple of weeks ago, and we have indicated that we will continue to ask unanimous consent to ensure we have an opportunity, once more, to send as clear a message about the unfairness, the inequity, the extraordinary insult this represents to those families who are even, I would argue, more deserving of a tax credit than families with higher incomes.

So far our efforts have been unsuccessful because of the opposition expressed by our colleagues on the other side. But we will continue every day to find a way to see if this matter can be resolved prior to the time we leave for the August recess.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

I again renew the request. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1434; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. This is the Lincoln-Snowe child tax credit bill for those working Americans who will not get checks this week and which we have attempted to address now for several weeks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will be objecting, let me say to my good friend, the Democratic leader, that discussions continue between the two chairmen of Ways and Means in the House and Finance in the Senate. We are still optimistic that we will be able to move forward on something related to this matter in the near future. But in the meantime, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the optimistic forecast of the distinguished assistant Republican leader. I will say, we have heard this now for some 48 days. The House leaves tomorrow, and they will have left without addressing this issue. So as checks are received for millions of families whose incomes exceed \$26,000, all of those 12 million kids whose incomes are below \$26,000 are going to be left empty-handed, in part because of objections, in part because of intransigence on the other side, in part simply because, by design, they were left out when this bill was written several months ago.

It is unfortunate but, as I say, we will continue to draw this matter to

the attention of our colleagues, continue to find a way to resolve this so that some measure of equity can be provided, especially with regard to families who need it the most.

Mr. President, I know there are some Democratic Senators wishing to come to the Chamber soon to offer amendments. I understand we have morning business until 10 o'clock. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, if there is no one wishing to speak, I wish to make a short comment.

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

Mr. STEVENS. I know the order is for time on the other side. I ask to use about 5 or 7 minutes.

LEWIS & CLARK AND THE
REVEALING OF AMERICA EXHIBIT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this is the time of year when Senators have visitors from home. I know many come to my office and ask me personally, What should I see in Washington now?

Last evening, I visited the opening of the Lewis and Clark exhibit, "Lewis & Clark and the Revealing of America." It is at the Library of Congress from July 24 to November 29.

I have asked that a copy of the booklet that is being given out at this exhibit be placed on every Senator's desk. I do hope that will happen. I congratulate the Congressional Caucus on the Bicentennial of Lewis and Clark: Senators CONRAD BURNS, LARRY CRAIG, BYRON DORGAN, and Representatives DOUG BEREUTER and EARL POMEROY.

As one goes into the exhibit in the Library of Congress, the first thing one will see is the 1507 Waldseemuller world map. This is the first map that used the word "America" in the history of the world. Beyond that, there are a series of maps that lead up to the information that President Jefferson had when he dispatched Lewis and Clark to make their historic journey.

The interesting point about this is that for years, the maps of our part of the world were really kept classified by the Spanish, and it took a German geographer, Alexander von Humboldt, when he visited Mexico City and got access to the archives of Mexico to disclose to the world the maps that had been prepared prior to that time.

Copies of each of those maps is on exhibit at the Library of Congress. It takes us through the total exploration of Lewis and Clark but subsequent explorations of the American West, the Louisiana Purchase, and the total history of our country west of the Mississippi. It is told through maps and through artifacts that have been gathered not only to tell us the geography of our area, but really the dress of Americans at that time, the plants—a total description of the West as it was known then.

What is interesting is that the German geographer who had visited Mexico City actually visited with President