

Mr. President, the House of Representatives is expecting to pass a 1-week extension of the existing CR perhaps this afternoon. They will send that over to the Senate once they have adopted it. The Senate, in this process now, would be then privileged to have a vote on that CR or to continue work on the current vehicle, the omnibus appropriations bill. I am very hopeful that we can keep on this bill to clean it up and finish it because we have to go to the House for a conference following our action. One week is not a very long time in the consideration of this vehicle and that which we are substituting for the House-passed omnibus package.

I am very hopeful that we can finish this and launch our conference with the House and by Friday midnight pass the 1-week extension that the House will probably pass today.

I think that is an orderly progression of our responsibility because I am fearful that if we extend this CR for 1 week, there is no pressure to finish this bill, and that will put us into next week on this vehicle and shortening the time, we have to understand, necessary to allow for a conference with the House.

I hoped we could escape any additional CR, but that is not the way the Senate has worked its will. I wish to indicate again that if Senators are serious about the amendments they have listed, I hope they will appear in the Chamber and provide the body an opportunity to discuss and to dispose one way or another of the amendments.

Senator HATCH has indicated that he will be here at 1 o'clock in order to offer an amendment. I see the Senator from North Dakota in the Chamber, looking as though he is preparing to ask for recognition, and hopefully he is preparing to offer an amendment, because, very frankly, I do need a soft shoe or catchy tunes. We have about a 20-minute interval facing us that I do not want to waste until the Senator from Utah arrives on his schedule for submission of an amendment.

Am I reading the actions of the Senator from North Dakota correctly?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I will advise the Senator from Oregon I should like to seek the floor for 2 minutes on an unrelated item. I think there is one amendment referenced for me which may occur but would require no floor time. So I will not ask for additional time from the Senator from Oregon.

I appreciate the difficulty is to try to get this bill done, and I understand the urgency with which he requests Senators to come and offer their amendments. I share the interest in seeing that this bill gets completed. If there are no other Senators seeking recognition when the Senator from Oregon relinquishes the floor, I would ask for 2 minutes on an unrelated subject.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I hope it is in the form of a unanimous-consent, and then I would say that I would object to that unanimous con-

sent request from the Senator from North Dakota unless it includes a soft shoe or a catchy tune for the rest of the time we are waiting for the Senator from Utah.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. I would say to my friend from Oregon, the soft shoes and loud tunes, was it, are better reserved for other Members of the Senate. In fact, we have seen one example of that in the Senate. It was played and re-played on the nightly news, and I thought it had less to do with talent than it had to do with the mere shock of seeing it occur on the Senate floor.

Let me ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

THE FARM BILL

Mr. DORGAN. I seek the floor—and I would not have done it had other Members wanted to continue on this bill—for 2 minutes to say that we are dealing with a lot of important issues in the Senate on this continuing appropriations bill, but there is another issue that is of enormous importance to North Dakota and to the farm belt. That is the farm bill which is now in conference.

I want very much, now that conferees are appointed, for them to work around the clock in order to resolve the differences on the farm bill, bring it to the floor of the House and Senate and get a farm bill in place.

The fact is, farmers in North Dakota, tens of thousands of them, are now ready to go to the fields. In a matter of weeks, they will be in the fields doing spring planting. The farm bill that was supposed to have been passed last year was not. It is now mid-March 1996, and we do not yet have a farm bill.

I have discerned that really if this is a revolution in the 104th Congress, it is a revolution with two speeds: One is a full gallop when it comes to the larger economic interests. Let Wall Street have a headache, and we have a dozen people rushing in with medicine bottles. Let some of the larger corporate interests complain about a bellyache, and we have people who want to tuck them in bed. But let family farmers out there go around without a farm bill and people say there is no need for a farm program; we do not need to get a farm bill for the family farmer. There is slow motion in dealing with issues family farmers need dealt with.

Farmers in North Dakota and Kansas and South Dakota, Nebraska need to understand what is the farm program. What are the conditions under which they will plant this spring? Will there be a safety net or will there not be a safety net? I would like Congress to provide that answer, and I would like them to provide that answer sooner rather than later.

A couple of weeks ensued when the House was in recess after the Senate passed its bill and a number of weeks lapsed while we were waiting for conferees to be appointed. It is time for the conference now that it is established to start working around the clock and get this done. It ought not take a long period of time.

Farmers deserve an answer. I know that each individual farmer does not have a lot of economic clout, and I guess that is why we do not see the rush to serve their needs like we see when some of the larger economic interests float around this institution.

I hope very soon the conference will convene and the conference will complete its work, bring its work to the Congress, and tell the family farmers of this country what will be the farm bill for 1996. This Congress owes that to the farmers, and farmers deserve to hear it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THE TRAGEDY IN DUNBLANE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I actually do not have any prepared remarks, but I was thinking that maybe later on I would write up a resolution, or the leadership could write up a resolution, that there ought to be some words, some kind of statement by the United States Senate, maybe it is a message of love, to the people of Dunblane, Scotland.

The slaughter of 16 children is just the ultimate nightmare. All of us who have children or grandchildren—or whether we have or do not have children or grandchildren, it does not make any difference—just in terms of our own humanity, I think we all can feel, and we know the horror of what has happened.

So, as a Senator from Minnesota, I just wanted to send my prayers and my love to the people of Dunblane and to tell them that today, in the U.S. Senate, it is not as if they are not in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. President, I wish it was in my power to do more. I wish it was in our power to do more. But I think something should be said about it on the floor of the Senate, so I rise to speak, to send my love to the people of Scotland. I believe I speak for other Senators as well. Maybe later on today we can have a resolution that I know all of us will support.

Sometimes when you do this it seems unimportant, but it really is not, because it is kind of a way in which all