

Domenici	Johnston	Murray
Feingold	Kennedy	Pell
Feinstein	Kerry	Robb
Ford	Kerry	Rockefeller
Graham	Kohl	Sarbanes
Harkin	Lautenberg	Simon
Hatch	Lieberman	Snowe
Hollings	Mikulski	Thompson
Hutchison	Moseley-Braun	Wellstone
Inouye	Moynihan	Wyden

NAYS—57

Ashcroft	Frist	Mack
Baucus	Glenn	McCain
Bennett	Gorton	McConnell
Biden	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Nickles
Bradley	Grassley	Nunn
Brown	Gregg	Pressler
Bryan	Hatfield	Pryor
Burns	Hefflin	Reid
Campbell	Helms	Roth
Chafee	Inhofe	Santorum
Coats	Jeffords	Shelby
Cochran	Kassebaum	Simpson
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Smith
Craig	Kyl	Specter
Dole	Leahy	Stevens
Dorgan	Levin	Thomas
Exon	Lott	Thurmond
Faircloth	Lugar	Warner

NOT VOTING—1

Cohen

So the amendment (No. 3776) was rejected.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I thank all of my colleagues, especially Senator KENNEDY, my fellow floor manager on that side of the aisle, for the extraordinary support and assistance today in moving the issue along.

Now I am going to propound a unanimous consent-request. I have shared this with my fellow manager so that we might move tomorrow to what I think will be a conclusion hopefully of this legislation, or at least a portion of it, a large portion of it.

I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be the only remaining amendments in order prior to the vote on the Simpson amendment, as amended, provided that all provisions of rule XXII remain in order notwithstanding this agreement. And I hereby state the amendments: Abraham, Abraham, DeWine, Bradley, Graham, Graham, Graham, Graham—four Graham amendments—Leahy, Bryan, Harkin, three Simpson amendments, Chafee, Hutchison, DeWine again, Graham, Gram of Texas, Senator Simon two, Senator Wellstone two, Senator Kennedy two, Reid, Robb, Feinstein No. 3777, Simpson No. 3853, and Simpson No. 3854.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I would ask approval of that agreement.

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

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank Senator SIMPSON and our other colleagues for their attention and for their cooperation during the day. We had several interruptions which were unavoidable. We had an opportunity to debate several matters.

It does look like a sizable group remain. As of yesterday, there were 156 amendments, so we have disposed probably of 6 or 8 and we are down to 28. So we are moving at least in the right direction. From my own knowledge from some of our colleagues, they have indicated a number of these are place holders.

We will have some very important measures to take up for debate tomorrow, and we will look forward to that and to a continuing effort to reach accommodation on the areas where we can and to let the Senate speak to the areas we cannot.

Mr. President, I thank my colleague and friend from Wyoming and all of our staffs. We will look forward to addressing these issues on tomorrow.

I thank the Chair.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for the leader, I have several unanimous-consent requests. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each.

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

WARD VALLEY

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, 16 years ago, we in Congress passed the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act. This bill gave the States the responsibility of developing permanent repositories for this Nation's low-level nuclear waste. Now the Clinton administration wants to take away that authority.

For 8 years, South Dakota, as a member of the Southwestern Compact, along with North Dakota, Arizona and California, has worked to fulfill its duty to license a storage site. It did the job.

Ward Valley, CA is the first low-level waste site to be licensed in the Nation. After countless scientific and environmental studies and tests, the State of California and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved Ward Valley as a safe and effective place to store the Southwestern Compact's low-level radioactive waste.

However, there is one problem. Ward Valley is Federal land. It is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The Southwestern Compact has requested that Ward Valley be transferred to the State of California. The Clinton administration refuses to take action. Instead, it has stalled—again, and again, and again.

First, the Secretary of the Interior ordered a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Then, he ordered the National Academy of Sciences to perform a special report on the suitability of Ward Valley for waste storage. Each study presented the Southwestern Compact with a clean bill of health for Ward Valley. Yet, the administration still delays.

Now, the administration has ordered additional studies on the effects of tritium—studies the State of California already intended to perform, but not until the land transfer was complete. Also, I would note, the National Academy of Sciences made no mention that such studies should be a prerequisite to the land transfer.

Instead, the Academy believes that this type of study should be ongoing—conducted in conjunction with operation of the waste storage facility. Unfortunately, I suspect that even if California gives in to demands and performs these tests, the administration will just think up new demands—anything to keep the Ward Valley waste site from becoming reality.

So who benefits from these delays? No one. This is yet one more example of the Clinton administration's pandering to the environmental extremists—extremists intent on waging a war on the West.

Scientific evidence shows that Ward Valley is a safe location for low-level radioactive waste storage. Neither public health nor the environment will be at risk. In fact, most of the waste to be stored at Ward Valley is nothing more than hospital gloves and other supplies which may have come in contact with radioactive elements used by healthcare providers.

By contrast, continued delays creates risks—both to public health and the environment. Currently, low-level waste is simply stored on site—at hospitals, industries, or research institutions. In the four States of the Southwestern Compact, there are over 800 low-level radioactive waste sites. These sites were not meant to be permanent facilities. Thus, there have been no environmental studies, no long-term monitoring systems, nothing to guarantee safe storage of the waste.

With no regional low-level radioactive waste storage sites available, South Dakota is forced to transport its low-level radioactive waste across the country to a disposal facility in Barnwell, S.C.

Clearly, the costs of transporting this waste across the country are great—from the monetary cost to the waste generators, to the legal ramifications of transporting hazardous waste,