

that may be at my disposal as a result of this brief 10-minute recess.

Is there agreement to that, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I would therefore on those conditions yield to my distinguished colleague from Indiana for the introductions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Indiana.

#### VISIT TO THE SENATE BY MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Nevada for his cooperation. Likewise, I'd like to thank all Senators who are with us, and staff.

It is my privilege and honor to have the opportunity to welcome on behalf of the entire Senate a distinguished delegation from the European Parliamentary Group who are here for the 44th European Parliament and U.S. Congress Interparliamentary Meeting. This delegation, which is led by Mr. Alan Donnelly, from the United Kingdom, and Mrs. Karla Peijs, from the Netherlands, is here to meet with Members of the Congress and other American officials to discuss a wide range of issues of mutual concern.

The European Parliament plays an increasingly important role in shaping the new Europe. Parliament's authority has been expanded recently. It will continue to play a central role in the many challenges and opportunities facing Europe as European nations build upon free market economics, as they deepen the roots of democracy, as they define their relationships with Russia and the former Warsaw Pact countries and reach out to the rest of the world to forge viable economic, political, and security linkages.

Continued contact with and strong relations between the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress are essential in developing better economic relations with Europe and in reinforcing the many common goals which bring us together.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in welcoming individually, by greeting them by hand, each of the distinguished parliamentarians who are here today from the European Parliament.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of all of the delegation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, JULY 1996

#### SOCIALIST GROUP (PSE)

Alan Donnelly (U.K.) Chairman.  
Jean Pierre Cot (France).  
Mrs. Ilona Graenitz (Austria).  
Ms. Irini Lambraki (Greece).  
Mrs. Bernie Malone (Ireland).

Gerhard Schmid (Germany).

Erhard Meier (Austria).

EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (PPE—CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS)

Mrs. Karla Peijs (Netherlands) Vice Chairman.

Ms. Mary Banotti (Ireland).

Bryan Cassidy (U.K.).

Reinhard Rack (Austria).

Elmar Brok (Germany).

Giampaolo D'Andrea (Italy).

Paul Rübzig (Austria).

#### UNION FOR EUROPE GROUP

Raul Miguel Rosado Fernandes (Portugal).

Franco E. Malerba (Italy).

Mr. LUGAR. It is, indeed, a privilege to have this delegation with us, and I appreciate the time taken by the Chair and by the Senators so that we may have an opportunity to greet this distinguished delegation. I encourage all of us to do so before we proceed with our debate.

I thank the Chair.

#### RECESS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, under the conditions stipulated by the distinguished Senator from Nevada, that the Senate stand in recess for 5 minutes.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:37 p.m., recessed until 4:46 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. THOMPSON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. The Senator from Nevada has the floor. I wonder if I can have unanimous consent that I not lose my right to the floor. I want to speak with the majority leader.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no quorum call in progress.

The Senator from Nevada.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as we were discussing before the senior Senator from Indiana asked for a recess for the European Parliamentarians, we have a lot to do in this body. I hope we can do a welfare reform bill. It is part of the Democratic families first agenda. It is something my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have said that they want to pass, and I believe that.

I am a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I have responsibilities with my friend from Idaho, Senator KEMPTHORNE. I am the ranking member of a subcommittee, and we passed out of this body, with bipartisan support, a safe drinking water bill. That conference is now ready to meet. We should get a bill back here and debate that conference report and pass, for the people of this country, the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Health care reform: Health care is important. There is no way that we are

going to be able to do all that needs to be done with health care, but we need to do what is possible to go with health care. Can we not do the portability of insurance? Can we not handle preexisting disability? We need to finish that important issue.

The only appropriations bill that we have passed is one that is chaired by the junior Senator from Montana, and I am the ranking member of that subcommittee, military construction. It was a bill that passed here on a bipartisan basis. We had very good debate on the underlying issues when the defense authorization bill came up. We had fully exhausted talking about those military construction matters when the military construction appropriations bill came up. When it came up, it passed out of here without a contrary vote.

There are many things that we need to do here that are doable, but the more time we waste on issues like nuclear waste, an issue that the President has said he is going to veto—interim storage—we are taking away from the important matters at hand.

I repeat, we were lectured today by my friend, the senior Senator from Utah, about the situation with the White House Travel Office. Listening to my friend from Utah, I think that is an issue that needs to be debated at length, because there are two sides to every story. Maybe Billy Dale is entitled to be compensated for all of his attorney's fees, but that would set a kind of strange precedent in this body that any time a Federal prosecution goes away, we reimburse the defendant, who is acquitted, for his attorney's fees? Think about that one as a precedent-setting matter.

I have also seen a letter that was written on Billy Dale's behalf to the Justice Department that he would agree to plead guilty to a felony. I have also seen that one of the reasons that criminal prosecution was considered is he used to take part of the money home with him every night—I do not know about every night—but he would take cash home with him, kept it in his home. I think that would raise some suspicions in some people's minds.

Maybe Billy Dale is entitled to be reimbursed for his expenses. Maybe there are some overwhelming merits on his behalf of which I am not aware. But it is not a slam dunk, as the Senator from Utah would lead us to believe.

So, should that not be something we talk about here? The President has not said he is going to veto that. But, no, what we are being told is we are going to go to S. 1936, a bill that the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, has said he is going to veto. It will take up time of this body and take up time of the other body in conference.

The President said he is going to veto it. Why should he not veto it? It is one of the most irresponsible pieces of legislation that I can even imagine. I am sure there are more, but I do not know what they would be.