There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—I don't have any intention of objecting—what are these two changes in 33 and 39?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Rule XXXIX is with regard to foreign travel by Members. Senator BUMPERS will be going with a Codel and we had to have special permission for that to occur.

I am very anxious to advise Senator BYRD regarding Rule XXXIII. The purpose is to provide for a video presentation of Senator BYRD on the operation of the Senate during orientation. We think it would be very useful for our Members who may not be able to attend orientation, for review later. We think it would also be useful for students of this institution.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 302) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 302

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXXIII, the Senate authorizes the videotaping of the address by the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Byrd) to the incoming Senators scheduled to be given in the Senate Chamber in December 1998.

AUTHORIZATION OF RECESS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Senate Resolution 303, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 303) authorizing the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders to make certain appointments during the recess of the present session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 303) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 303

Resolved, That during the recess of the present session of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate be, and they are hereby, authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT. I might say to Senators who are in the Chamber, and others who may be watching, ordinarily much of this is done at the very last minute of the session. I thought that some of it could be done this morning. I thought we would start our wrap-up work now. I think that is appropriate. We get, frankly, more attention, and it also will help conclude sooner tomorrow.

THANKS OF THE SENATE TO THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Senate Resolution 304, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 304) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Vice President for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 304

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Honorable Al Gore, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during the second session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

THANKS OF THE SENATE TO THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Senate Resolution 305, introduced earlier today.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 305) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the President pro tempore for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 305) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 305

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate, for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during the second session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to add one note. I have never seen a more diligent Senator than Senator THURMOND has been in opening the Senate. He and Senator BYRD are living institutions. They have reverence for this institution. Many times, Senator THURMOND had been up late, had committee hearings, had been involved in moving the Thurmond bill, which was the armed services authorization bill, and had worked well into the night for a year. But when the Senate would open at 8:30, 9 o'clock, or 9:30, he was in the Chair and always very kind to our Chaplain. That exemplifies what the Senate should really be like. So I add my special appreciation to the President pro tempore.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MACK). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. GREGG. 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. CRAIG. 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. CRAIG. Mr. President, I assume we remain in morning business until 1 o'clock; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That's correct.

AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, we have just heard the Republican majority leader outline in brief the negotiations between the White House and the Congress as it relates to a final package of fiscal affairs for this Government for the coming year.

Over the course of the last several days, I have had the opportunity to attend a variety of those negotiations, and on occasion, based on my certain areas of knowledge, to be consulted as to what directions we might head.

I thought for a few moments this morning I would discuss briefly the agricultural package, because it is one of those major areas of concern and dispute for a period of time up until late last evening—that, of course, and the educational package that most of our colleagues are now becoming aware of.

While the final language on the agricultural package is being put together, there are some fundamental principles we adhered to that I think are important for our colleagues to understand when they begin to examine this package for their final consideration of it tomorrow.

First and foremost, it is important to recognize that this Republican Congress back in May and June began to recognize the very critical situation that American agriculture was in and the character of the decline in commodity prices that was evident out there, along with loss of foreign markets, that was producing what I consistently called on the floor of this Senate and across my State of Idaho an ''agricultural crisis.''

It was in late June that I, along with six other Senators and the majority leader, sat down with about 15 commodity group representatives in this community, representing national agricultural commodity groups, to examine the crisis from their perspective and to look at a variety of things that we might do here within current policy and current budget constraints to deal with the crisis, recognizing that if we weren't responsive, we would see many of our farmers on the edge of bankruptcy, and potentially by next crop season they would be out of production. That is not good for America. It is not good for our economic base or for the food-consuming public.

Fewer farmers mean larger farmers, usually, or fewer farmers with larger acreages. And in many instances what we find is large corporations buying up smaller production units that find themselves in bankruptcy.

Consistently we have looked at farm policy recognizing the need to keep farm families intact and a production unit in American agriculture that was sympathetic to the American farm family. So it was with that spirit in mind that we met with these commodity groups and came up with a list of items that we would attempt to be responsive to.

First and foremost in the general discussion with that commodity group was to keep the current farm policy in place, keep the 1996 farm bill, better known as Freedom to Farm, in place. It is working. It gives farmers greater flexibility to decide what to farm, what to grow, and how to deal with market trends. It does so with less Government interference, less opportunity to farm to a Government program instead of farm to what the market is demanding, what the consuming market is demanding. That became a premise of operation for us here in the Senate—that we would not violate or attempt to go in and offer dramatic changes to farm policy.

Immediately before the August recess, we responded by reaching out and putting more of what we call the AMFTA payments into this year's current payment to bump up some money that would go directly back to that farmer and to that production unit.

Most of us, of course, in August visited our farmers, and we came back clearly with the understanding that we were in a crisis, that the commodity prices were at a 20-year low, many times below the cost of production, and that the loss of Asian markets, the loss of markets in Central and South America, was also driving this decline in commodity prices.

There was also a large influx of product coming in from Canada, which was part of a program of opening the borders for the North American Free Trade Agreement. And we had to be sensitive to that.

But, most importantly, what our farmers were telling us, along with the decline in commodity prices, was that when we had put the 1996 farm policy in place, we had also said at that time there would be other things we would have to do. We would have to review trade policy. We would have to look at the cold war policy coming out of World War II that put sanctions on a variety of countries and basically took 13 to 20 percent of the world market out of reach of production agriculture by one or another sanctions that were built up as a product of foreign policy statements and/or policy laws in this country that we had to review.

Most immediate, when we came back in August, was the need to deal with the inability to trade with Pakistan and India based on the confrontation they were having and the nuclear tests they were engaged in, which was a direct violation of the nuclear test ban and, of course, the provisions we had put in there that would disallow us trading with or dealing with countries that were in violation. We were able to strike those two sanctions down immediately, which then in a near immediate sense put in play major sales of soft white wheat out of the Pacific Northwest. Those sales have gone forward, and they have been very helpful to production agriculture nationwide.

We also said—and Chairman LUGAR, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said—we have to look at the overall need to review sanctions, the attempted sanctions legislation. There were some modifications in it, but it was not complete. He knows it; we know it.

One of our jobs coming back next year will be to take a serious look at the post-World War II era sanctions that have taken a large chunk of the world market away from our farmers, because in Freedom to Farm we said: You are going to be free to farm, and we are going to use the political clout, the governmental clout, of your country to open up these world markets to assist you. And we would look at another provision.

That is the very provision that the negotiations moved toward in the past several days. That was a tax component—a tax provision that said to production units: You are cyclical by nature. By that I mean, 1-year commodity prices are at an all-time high and the next year they are at an all-time low. Those who have ever farmed—and I farmed during my other life as a private citizen—know that very well, that some years you make money and in other years you lose a lot of money. It is simply because of oversupply and then undersupply of certain commodities within the market.

As a result, we had historically said, up to 1986, that tax laws should reflect that you ought to be able to reach back and pull forward some of those losses into a crop year where there are high profits; you ought to be able to income average those kinds of things out. In 1986 we took that out—or I should say a Democrat Congress took that out—of the tax policy of that year, in my opinion badly handicapping and creating long-term injury to production agriculture. Last year we did some tentative work in that area putting income averaging back.

But the package that our colleagues will have a chance to review tonight and tomorrow as a final work product of this Congress will have made permanent the permanent income average, which is a key component to agriculture. Someone on the other side suggested to us that doesn't solve the immediate problem. No, it doesn't. But we put $5.97 billion in to solve the immediate problem directly flowing through to production agriculture. But what we have to look at is the long-term character that we had promised production agriculture when we changed the farm bill. And we do that—permanent income averaging, a 5-year carryback provision allowing farmers to account for, as I expressed a moment ago, the cyclical character or future of production agriculture.

Then we went in and did some technical corrections to IRS tax laws, because, for example, when a farmer is guaranteed a Government payment but the payment doesn't come until a certain time, the Government wants to tax you on the payment at the moment that you are eligible for it. We say no; that payment should occur at that time.

The bill that is being reviewed now also recognizes the kind of drought that your State of Florida had, Mr. President, and Texas and other parts of the southeastern part of the United States, Georgia. And there are $3 billion in there to deal with economic disasters. That will be critically important.

Between the payments that were scheduled in the Freedom to Farm 1996 farm policy, along with recognizing the crisis created by loss of foreign markets and the typical natural cycling of our environment and our weather, we are going to recognize all of that.

I will conclude by saying this. We preserve current farm policy because American agriculture told us they needed that to happen for the flexibility of future years. We have also kept some promises that we made in 1996, to begin to look at sanctions and to free

up opportunity in world markets. And also, most important, the third passage dealt with tax—tax law flexibility, so that that production unit, that farmer or rancher, can deal with the cyclical character of his or her markets on good years versus bad years. So they pay their fair share in taxes but they do not pay taxes one year on substantial profits and then the next year have tremendous losses that put them in a bind.

They used to understand that. That is the way the law used to be. With that flexibility, you kind of store it up in the good years to offset your needs in the bad years. That is the way agriculture ought to operate, and that is the way our tax laws ought to allow them to operate.

I thought I would give that synopsis of what we are doing and what I think is important for our taxpayers to understand. Keeping this tremendous production unit in our country—known as agriculture—healthy and producing is of critical importance to our country. The American consumers today pay less for food than any other item they buy. As a result of that, our consuming public has more spendable income to buy cars, to buy homes, to provide for their children's education. They are not paying 30 percent or 40 percent or 50 percent or 60 percent of their income for food. They are paying 13 to 14 percent, for the highest quality, safest, richest foods in the world. That is a result of this marvelous production unit we call American agriculture.

I am proud that this Republican Congress, working with our colleagues on the other side, represented that understanding in the current policy that is embodied in this omnibus bill with which we will be dealing. It is an important area. I am glad our leaders were sensitive to it and that we can turn to agriculture and say: We didn't save you, we didn't guarantee you, but we recognize the need to shore up, in those areas of disaster, and to assure that those units of production—and those are family farms; these are people, men and women and their children who oftentimes work from daylight to dark—are going to be held as whole as we can possibly keep them at a time when farm commodities, because of certain situations here and around the world, have plummeted to nearly 25- and 30-year lows.

Mr. President, let me run through a few unanimous consent requests cleared by both sides of the aisle.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MICCOSUKEE TRIBE

Mr. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3055, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3055) to deem the activities of the Miccosukee Tribe on the Miccosukee Reserved Area to be consistent with the purposes of the Everglades National Park, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRAHAM. Today I join my colleague Senator MACK in supporting the right of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida to reside in Everglades National Park.

Mr. MACK. I thank the Senator and feel that although the acreage provided to the Miccosukee in this legislation is far less than their historic territory within the Everglades, it does satisfy their right to reside within Everglades National Park.

Mr. GRAHAM. It is also my understanding that by giving the Miccosukee Tribe this opportunity to build a community within Everglades National Park we are fully resolving their claims to land within the park.

Mr. MACK. Yes. Also, it is expected that Miccosukee Tribe is granted the right to occupy, reside in, and govern in perpetuity the Miccosukee Reserved Area in Everglades National Park. I am pleased that this legislation will resolve the dispute between the Park Service and the Miccosukee Tribe over lands within the park.

Mr. GRAHAM. I am pleased to join the Senator in supporting the continued residence of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida in Everglades National Park.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3055) was considered read the third time and passed.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1998

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S. 1525) to provide financial assistance for higher education to the dependents of Federal, State, and local public safety officers who are killed or permanently and totally disabled as the result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1525) entitled ''An Act to provide financial assistance for higher education to the dependents of Federal, State, and local public safety officers who are killed or permanently and totally disabled as the result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty'', do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Police, Fire, and Emergency Officers Educational Assistance Act of 1998''.

SEC. 2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TO DEPENDENTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS KILLED OR PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Part L of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.) is amended—

*(1) in the heading for subpart 2, by striking ''**Civilian Federal Law Enforcement**'' and inserting ''**Public Safety**'';*

(2) in section 1211(1), by striking ''civilian Federal law enforcement'' and inserting ''public safety'';

(3) in section 1212(a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''Federal law enforcement'' and inserting ''public safety'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Financial'' and inserting the following: ''Except as provided in paragraph (3), financial''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The financial assistance referred to in paragraph (2) shall be reduced by the sum of—

''(A) the amount of educational assistance benefits from other Federal, State, or local governmental sources to which the eligible dependent would otherwise be entitled to receive; and

''(B) the amount, if any, determined under section 1214(b).'';

(4) in section 1214—

(A) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''The''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) SLIDING SCALE.—Notwithstanding section 1213(b), the Attorney General shall issue regulations regarding the use of a sliding scale based on financial need to ensure that an eligible dependent who is in financial need receives priority in receiving funds under this subpart.'';

(5) in section 1216(a), by inserting ''and each dependent of a public safety officer killed in the line of duty on or after October 1, 1997,'' after ''1992,''; and

(6) in section 1217—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

Mr. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent the Senate agree to the amendment of the House-passed bill.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was proud to cosponsor the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Act of 1996 and am again proud to cosponsor this bill, S. 1525, the Public Safety Officers Educational Benefits Assistance Act of 1998. I am delighted that the Senate is finally sending this important bill to the President's desk for his signature into law.

Our legislation extends the educational benefits that we previously provided to the children of federal law enforcement to the families of State and local public safety officials who die or are disabled in the line of duty. Those families make the ultimate sacrifice for our public safety and deserve our support and assistance. I commend Senator SPECTER and Senator BIDEN and all the cosponsors for their work on these measures.

The Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Act of 1996, known as the Degan Act after U.S. Deputy Marshall Bill Degan, who died in the Ruby Ridge incident in 1992, provides Federal educational assistance to families of Federal law enforcement officers