

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE
EXPANSION ACT—Continued

Mr. LOTT. Now, Mr. President, the pending business will be the trade bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The pending business is the trade bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3386

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Daschle amendment No. 3386 exceeds the Finance Committee's allocation of budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 2002 and breaches the revenue floor for fiscal year 2002, fiscal years 2002 through 2006, and fiscal years 2002 through 2011. I raise points of order against this amendment under sections 302(f) and 311(a)(2)(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is well taken, and the amendment falls.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

FARM BILL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, once again, the principal reason I have sought recognition has been to comment on my "no" vote on the farm bill, which was passed yesterday. Even though there are some parts of the farm bill which I liked, I have, on balance, decided to vote "No" because of the excessive cost which favors big corporate farmers and provides unreasonable subsidies to cotton, soybean, wheat, rice and corn.

When I voted for the farm bill in the Senate, the cost was \$73.5 billion over current spending for farm programs. However, the conference report came in at \$82.8 billion for a total of approximately \$190 billion total over 10 years which is, simply stated, far too expensive. The United States no longer enjoys a projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion over the next 10 years. In fact, there is a deficit of \$130 billion expected by the end of this fiscal year.

Projecting the costs of this farm bill, it may be necessary to invade the Social Security trust fund, probably abandon plans for adequate prescription drugs for senior citizens and encroach on necessary appropriations for many priority items, including defense, education and health care. When I chaired the Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health & Human Services and Education, and now in my capacity as ranking member, I have seen the great need for funding for the National Institutes of Health and other health programs as well as education and worker safety. Without enumerating many other programs, there are obviously high priorities which will be impacted by the costs of this Farm Bill.

I am especially concerned about payments to large corporate farmers. The distinguished ranking member of the Agriculture Committee, Senator LUGAR, has stated that more than \$100 billion will go to farm subsidy payments over the next 10 years, with two-thirds of payments going to just 10 percent of the largest farmers who grow primarily corn, soybean, wheat, rice and cotton. This policy will likely encourage further market concentration.

This bill encourages over-production with the resultant consequence of yet lower prices leading to more subsidies. This Bill will further have an adverse impact on international trade by providing expanded and unpredictable levels of support, which increase the likelihood that the United States might breach the farm subsidy limitations it agreed to in the 1994 world trade agreements. Further, the bill's expanded supports have caused our trading partners to question our sincerity on future reductions in farm spending.

There are some portions of the bill which I favor, such as the new national dairy program, expanded Food Stamp Program, including providing food stamps to legal immigrants, and the many positive environmental and conservation measures that are very effective in Pennsylvania. I am pleased to see the new national dairy program, but it falls short of the proper legislation which is embodied in my bill, S. 1157, which would create permanent dairy compacts in the Northeast, as well as the South, Northwest and Inter-Mountain regions. While the dairy provisions will be of help, Congress is missing an opportunity to create a long-term dairy policy through the compacts which would have no cost to the taxpayers.

GUN TRAFFICKING IN AMERICA

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have spoken previously about the problem of gun trafficking. In June of 2000, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms released "Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers." This report examined 1,500 ATF gun trafficking investigations documenting that more than

84,000 guns were diverted to the illegal market and were often later used by criminals to commit violent crimes. In addition this report showed that investigations involving gun shows and corrupt gun dealers involved the highest numbers of trafficked guns. However, some good news did come out of this report. At the time of its publication, the report concluded that ATF gun trafficking investigations led to the prosecutions of more than 1,700 defendants. Of these cases, 812 defendants were sentenced in federal court to a total of 7,420 years in prison, with an average sentence of nine years.

Gun trafficking has also been a problem in my home state of Michigan. According to Americans for Gun Safety's analysis of ATF Trace Data from 1996—1999, over 40 percent of the guns traced to crimes committed in Michigan in 1998 and 1999 originated in other states, a much higher rate than the national average. The largest number of out of state suppliers of guns to Michigan during the same period were from Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama.

The ATF's report and these statistics demonstrate that criminals are not only gaining access to guns, but are able to smuggle them into the hands of other criminals who use them to commit violent crimes. This kind of activity can be stopped by vigorously enforcing our gun laws, providing law enforcement with more tools to crack down on gun trafficking, corrupt gun dealers and other armed criminals, and by passing sensible gun safety legislation.

FARM SECURITY AND RURAL
INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Farm Security and Rural Development Act of 2002. While previous farm bills have provided very little for the State of Maine and the New England region, I am pleased that the conference report before us, while by no means perfect, provides for a more equitable treatment for the farmers in Maine and the Northeast. I have been in touch with the farmers and growers in Maine throughout the development of the 2002 Farm bill, and they, like I, believe the Northeast has been shortchanged in past Farm bills.

The State groups, such as the Maine Potato Board, the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission, the Maine Farm Bureau, the Maine Apple Growers, the Northeast Dairy Coalition, the Directors of the State's Farm Service Agency and Maine Rural Development, and the State Conservationist at the National Resource Conservation Service, believe that this conference report starts us down a path toward regional equity from which I would hope we will not stray in the future development of farm policies.

In addition, on May 6, Commissioner Robert Spear of the Maine Department of Agriculture wrote me similar thoughts, stating that, "I believe it is