

In addition to that, we are working on terrorism insurance, and we are hoping to get its passage before we leave. I would like to get a unanimous consent agreement on that matter.

Senator LOTT mentioned we were not able to get the budget language resolved. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues objected to doing that last week during the debate on the supplemental, so we were precluded from doing that last week, but we will continue to work to find a way, hopefully without the objections of our Republican colleagues, on the budget as well.

I will reiterate my commitment to the distinguished Republican leader that the Defense authorization bill is legislation we will finish prior to the time we leave for the July 4 recess.

Mr. LOTT. Under my reservation, I note there is a great deal of difference between going to the budget resolution and having full consideration, and agreeing to a number and enforcement numbers on supplemental appropriations. I am prepared to try to help find a solution, to have some limits and some enforcement mechanisms, but obviously the way it has been done for the past 25 years is to have a budget resolution. I do think it is the right thing to do, to go to this death tax issue, and I do want us to continue to work on that.

We are going to get an agreement on how to proceed to the cloning issue because I made that commitment some time ago, as did Senator DASCHLE, to Members on both sides of the issue and on both sides of the aisle. I think we are very close.

I ask to be added to this unanimous consent agreement that following the disposition of this death tax issue, H.R. 8, the next order of business be the Defense authorization bill, which is S. 2514.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, of course we will object to that. Let me reiterate, because the Senator has noted his desire as well to deal with cloning, to deal with terrorism insurance, to deal with a number of other issues, that I know he will be prepared to cooperate in scheduling. We have to take this a step at a time. We may not be ready to deal with Defense tomorrow, but we are going to be ready to deal with it before the end of this work period. So we will continue to do that.

I look forward to working with him to find that date when we can accomplish all we need to accomplish in a very short period of time.

Mr. LOTT. With that assurance then, I withdraw my further reservation, but I again express my concern that if we wait too late on bringing up the Defense authorization bill, being able to complete it before the recess could be a problem. We need to get it done so we can go to the Defense appropriations bill and the military construction appropriations bill.

In view of the objection and the assurances, I withdraw my reservation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:53 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CLELAND).

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request to propose. This unanimous consent is to pass a badly needed permanent extension of the adoption tax credit. If we do not pass this extension that was part of President Bush's tax relief bill of last year, it will sunset.

If the adoption tax credit is allowed to sunset, the following things will happen: The adoption tax credit will be cut overnight from a maximum of \$10,000 to \$5,000. Families adopting special needs children will no longer receive a flat \$10,000 credit; instead, they will be limited to a maximum of \$6,000. The tax credit no longer will be permitted if we have to extend it each year. Families claiming the tax credit may be pushed into AMT, alternative minimum taxes. The income caps will fall from \$150,000 to \$75,000 so that fewer families will be eligible for the credit.

There are over 500,000 kids in foster care right now. Let's help them find loving homes. Let's make it easier for families to adopt, not throw up barriers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator?

Mr. KENNEDY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. BUNNING. May I carry on a colloquy with the Senator from Massachusetts?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has made a request to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. I would be more than glad to engage in a colloquy.

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

Mr. BUNNING. I ask the Senator from Massachusetts, does he have a specific objection to the permanent extension of the adoption tax credit at this time for some specific reason?

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am doing it on behalf of the leadership because I understand we have Members who want to offer amendments and have a somewhat different view than the Senator from Kentucky and want the opportunity to do so and have that determined by the Senate.

For that reason, I object.

Mr. BUNNING. I understand the objection. I hope when the other objectors come forward, we will have an opportunity to discuss this permanent extension of the adoption tax credit and to try to work with whoever the objectors are on that side to make it possible that we have this extension made permanent so families can adopt and continue to get the permanent \$10,000 tax credit under which they are now operating. My fear is that will expire and then we will have all kinds of bad consequences.

I thank the Senator and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I say to the Senator from Kentucky, I think the objective of the Senator is enormously worthwhile. I may very well come out and support the proposal of the Senator from Kentucky. I have been notified by the leadership there are those who have a proposal that may have some different features and they would like to be heard on that particular proposal, but I thank the Senator. I think the issues on adoption are enormously important. I think the idea of trying to provide assistance to those families is incredibly valuable.

I have had the opportunity, for example, to have hearings on families from Canada with grown children who have adopted children with special needs. They adopted these children who had special needs even though they had younger children because, under the Canadian health care system, they offset the medical aspects of the special needs children.

I asked the mother why she adopted special needs children when she had three or four children of her own. Her response was she wanted her children to understand what love was really all about.

I may very well support the Senator and try to go even further than the Senator from Kentucky. I admire him for raising the issue on the floor, and I only object because of what I have been notified by the leadership.

Mr. BUNNING. If the Senator will yield, my personal interest goes beyond just the permanent credit. I have a daughter who had four children and adopted a special needs child, and then had seven more children after that. So I am very familiar with the change in life and the loving care that comes with adopting a special needs child. I am just fearful the Senate will not act in a reasonable manner to make sure this credit becomes permanent. That is my reason for bringing it up at this time.

I understand the objection of the Senator.

Mr. KENNEDY. Since I am the one who objected, I say I will bring it up with the chairman of the Finance Committee and ask him if he would talk to the Senator from Kentucky about what their plans are and urge him to give us an opportunity to address this issue.