

fight against terror. Ideally, I would not need to criticize this legislation, but we owe it to the American taxpayers to inform them of how their money is being spent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. If my friend from Hawaii has no further comment to make, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Akaka	Domenici	McConnell
Alexander	Dorgan	Menendez
Allard	Durbin	Mikulski
Allen	Ensign	Murkowski
Baucus	Enzi	Murray
Bayh	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Biden	Frist	Obama
Bingaman	Graham	Pryor
Bond	Grassley	Reed
Boxer	Gregg	Reid
Brownback	Hagel	Roberts
Bunning	Harkin	Rockefeller
Burns	Hatch	Salazar
Burr	Hutchison	Santorum
Byrd	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Cantwell	Inouye	Schumer
Carper	Isakson	Sessions
Chafee	Jeffords	Shelby
Chambliss	Johnson	Smith
Clinton	Kennedy	Snowe
Coburn	Kerry	Specter
Cochran	Kohl	Stabenow
Coleman	Kyl	Stevens
Collins	Landrieu	Sununu
Conrad	Lautenberg	Talent
Cornyn	Leahy	Thomas
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Vitter
Dayton	Lincoln	Voivovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	Wyden
Dodd	Martinez	
Dole	McCain	

The conference report was agreed to. Mr. STEVENS. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, again, I thank the 2 people primarily responsible for the bill being so well put together, Sid Ashworth and Charlie Houy, respective assistants for Senator INOUE and me. It has been a good period dealing with this bill. This is the largest bill we have ever provided for the Department of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Order of Business

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business until 12 noon with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, the time count under rule XXII, and the following Senators be recognized in the following order: Senator BYRD, for up

to 20 minutes; Senator SANTORUM, for up to 20 minutes; Senator FEINSTEIN, 15 minutes; Senator DEMINT, for up to 10 minutes; and 20 minutes under the control of Senator FRIST.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Reserving the right to object, could I ask the distinguished majority leader if he could add me to the list as the last person for 10 minutes?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will modify the unanimous consent to Senators BYRD, 20 minutes; SANTORUM, 20 minutes; FEINSTEIN, 15 minutes; DEMINT, 10 minutes; 20 minutes, ENZI, not FRIST.

I am going back to my original unanimous consent request because I have too many Members wanting to talk. What we are doing, just for the information of our colleagues, is to lay out just morning business. We might even be able to extend morning business until the Democratic leader and I plan out the remainder of the day.

Now, as soon as I do the unanimous consent, we have a lot of Members who want to talk. We will not cut anyone off, but Members have been waiting—including Senator BYRD—since last night, and I want to be able to recognize them.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I do object, I want to be cooperative.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. FRIST. 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. FRIST. 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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business until 12:45, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and further that the time count under rule XXII, and that the following Senators be recognized in the following order: BYRD, 20 minutes; SANTORUM, 20 minutes; FEINSTEIN, 15 minutes; DEMINT, 10 minutes; ENZI, 20 minutes; LANDRIEU, 10 minutes; BOXER, 10 minutes; and CRAIG, 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank Senator FRIST and Senator REID and all other Senators.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, there are only 2 days—2 days—remaining in the fiscal year, and the Senate has passed only 2—only 2—of the 12 appropriations bills. The Senate just adopted a con-

tinuing resolution to continue the operations of Government for 14 of the 15 Departments.

This dismal performance is not the result of the work of the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee did its work and, on a bipartisan basis, reported all 12—all 12—of its bills by July 26. Chairman COCHRAN did an outstanding job, a remarkable job in leading the Appropriations Committee.

Yes, the Appropriations Committee did its work, did it well. Yet, here we are, just 2 days—2 days—away from the new fiscal year, and not one—no one—appropriations bill has been signed into law. And as everyone knows, the most vital bills that have to be done before we go home are the appropriations bills or the Government will stop running. Only two are likely to be sent to the President before the majority leader recesses the Senate for the elections.

The appropriations process has once again fallen victim to politics. The majority leadership designated September national security month. As a result, conferees have completed actions on the Defense bill and on the Homeland Security conference report. These are good, bipartisan bills. But not one other appropriations bill has come before this body, the Senate of the United States.

When it comes to the funding bills for domestic agencies, with the exception of Homeland Security, the majority leadership is apparently satisfied with a mindless continuing resolution. When it comes to the education of our children, when it comes to the health of the elderly, when it comes to the ability of our deteriorating infrastructure to sustain a growing economy, and the fiscal health of our farms, the majority leadership wants no debate—no debate—no debate—just a rubberstamp of a formula-based continuing resolution for 13 of the 15 Departments.

The majority leadership made a specific choice to delay bringing the domestic appropriations bills to the floor because it wished to avoid an open debate in the Senate—in this forum, where debate is free and open and one may speak as long as his or her feet will sustain him or her—it wished to avoid an open debate in the Senate about the many issues confronting Americans in their daily lives. That is what we are talking about.

The President submitted a budget for domestic programs that cut funding by \$14 billion below the level necessary to keep pace with inflation. The President's proposal to increase fees on our veterans for their health care is indefensible. The White House proposed cuts in education, cuts in programs to fight crime. The President's budget is not sustainable. Yet, once more behind closed doors, the majority leadership inserted a cap on spending at the level proposed by the President's budget. This was done by jamming a cap on spending in an unamendable conference

report—unamendable conference report—intended to provide disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and to fund the efforts of our valiant troops serving so heroically, yes, so heroically in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

To avoid debate—get that: to avoid debate; to avoid free and open debate—on the domestic appropriations bills, the Senate majority leadership has kept the Senate operating at a snail's pace all summer—all summer.

In July, the Senate had rollcall votes on only 9 days. In August, we voted on only 3 days. In September, we have had votes on just 10 days. So in the 3 months in which the Senate should be in overdrive to finish the appropriations bills, we have had votes on only 22 days. That is a pathetic—that is a pathetic—sorrowful performance.

Why? Why? The majority wants to avoid debate. The majority wants to avoid free and open public debate about its broken promises concerning the No Child Left Behind Act. The President's budget proposed the largest cut—hear me now—the President's budget proposed the largest cut to education funding in the 26-year history of the Education Department—I was here—the 26-year history of the Education Department, a \$2.1 billion, or 4 percent, reduction. How about that.

This is a nonsensical squandering of the future of our children. Hear me. This is a nonsensical squandering of the future of our children. The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill underfunds the title I program—the cornerstone of the No Child Left Behind Act—by a whopping \$12.3 billion. Mr. President, \$12.3 billion—that is \$12 and 30 odd cents for every minute since Jesus Christ was born. Get that: a whopping \$12.3 billion; the cornerstone of the No Child Left Behind Act, by a whopping \$12.3 billion.

It freezes funding for this program, even though the law calls for an increase of \$2.25 billion—\$2¼ billion. As a result, this bill would leave behind 3.7 million students who could be fully served by title I if the program were funded at the level promised by the No Child Left Behind Act.

I offered an amendment in the committee markup to increase title I funding by \$6.1 billion—half of this year's shortfall—but the Republican majority rejected it. Was the Senate given an opportunity to debate the need to invest in the education of our children? No.

In June, the FBI released its violent crime figures. The FBI found that murders in the United States jumped 4 percent last year and, overall, crime, violent crime—violent crime—was up by 2.5 percent for the year, the largest annual increase in crime in the United States since 1991. Yet the President proposed to cut law enforcement grants to State and local governments by \$1.2 billion and to eliminate the COPS hiring program.

Was the Senate given an opportunity to debate how best to respond to the

largest annual increase in crime in 15 years? No. No.

More than 30 farm groups—ranging from the National Farmers Union and the American Farm Bureau Federation to the American Sugar Alliance, the National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Cotton Council, and the Independent Community Bankers of America—are pressing the Senate to enact agriculture disaster relief. Sixty-six percent—66 percent—of all counties in the United States have been declared disaster areas by the Agriculture Department this year, and 88 percent—88 percent—of the counties were declared disaster areas in 2005.

The Appropriations Committee, on a bipartisan basis, adopted a \$4 billion disaster relief package back in June—back in June. Has the Senate had an opportunity to debate whether that relief package meets the needs of our farmers for disaster relief? No. No.

On July 19, the Commissioner of Social Security wrote me a letter in which she stated that the level of funding in the Labor-HHS bill: “. . . would require employee furloughs of approximately 10 days Agency-wide.”

Has the Senate had a chance to debate whether our elderly citizens want long lines at our Social Security offices? No. American seniors—yes, American senior citizens, the elderly—are dealing with a serious health crisis. At issue is how to cope with the burden of high prescription drug prices. Seniors should not be asked to skip doses. Seniors should not be asked to split pills in half. Seniors should not be asked to choose between food and medicine in order to make ends meet. No. Never. Never, I say.

According to a research report released by the AARP, the average annual increase in the cost of a senior's medication is \$300. Has the Senate had an opportunity to debate a provision in the House version of the Agriculture bill to allow drug reimportation? Has it? No. No.

The Environmental Protection Agency projects that our communities need in excess of \$200 billion for clean and safe drinking water systems. Yet the Interior appropriations bill would cut funding from a level of \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 2005 to \$687 million in fiscal year 2007, a cut of 38 percent. Has there been any debate? No. Has there been any debate? No. Has there been any debate about the need for safe and clean drinking water in our communities? Has there been any debate on the Senate floor, in this forum of free speech—free, unlimited speech and debate? No. No. No.

If there is one lesson we all should have learned from Hurricane Katrina, it is that there are consequences to starving Federal agencies. FEMA, which performed marvelously after the Northridge earthquake, the Midwest floods, and the 9/11 attacks, simply was no longer up to the task when Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast last year. I wonder which other Federal

agencies could be the next FEMA. Could it be the Food and Drug Administration? Has the Senate had the opportunity to debate whether the FDA has the resources and leadership necessary to make sure we have safe food and safe drugs? No.

The cost of attending a public 4-year college has increased 32 percent since the beginning of this administration. Yet the maximum Pell grant award has not been increased since 2002. Has the Senate discussed the wisdom of making it harder for our children to afford a college education? No.

The Labor-HHS bill cuts funding for the Centers for Disease Control's immunization program—one of the most cost-effective tools in preventing disease. For every dollar spent on vaccines, we save up to \$27 in medical and societal costs. Has the Senate had the opportunity to debate the value of investing in the health of our children? No.

On the heels of the first cut to funding for the National Institutes of Health since 1970, the President proposed level funding of NIH in fiscal year 2007. As a result, the total number of NIH-funded research project grants would drop by 642, or 2 percent below last year's level. The President's budget would cut funding for 18 of the 19 institutes. Funding for the National Cancer Institute would drop by \$40 million, and funding for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute would drop by \$21 million. Has there been a debate about the wisdom of these cuts? No.

The summerlong hiatus from our legislative duties makes us wonder why we bothered to keep the lights on in this Chamber.

After the coming recess, when the Congress returns in November, the prospect for the domestic bills is just as grim. Last week, under a veto threat from the White House, the majority agreed to carve another \$5 billion out of the domestic bills. Nothing but another monstrous omnibus bill or a long-term continuing resolution is on the horizon for all of the remaining domestic bills.

When I was chairman of the Appropriations Committee, from 1989 to 1994 and in 2001, the Senate debated and passed every bill but one. It takes persistence, it takes determination, and it takes a commitment to the U.S. Senate to debate and approve all of those bills. Chairman COCHRAN of Mississippi has that determination, and he was successful just last year in bringing every bill to the Senate floor. However, the majority leadership does not, apparently, value that persistence and hard work. He does not value that persistence and hard work and determination. In an election year, the only thing of value is spend and win.

Mr. President, I regret that we have, once again, so markedly demonstrated in the Senate that keeping our jobs far outweighs the desire to do our jobs and do those jobs well for the American people. Make no mistake, the American people will judge us accordingly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

ISSUES BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise to talk about a couple of issues that I think are very important. One I will get to in a minute, the pending legislation before us, the issue of immigration, illegal immigration, and what we are trying to do to combat that in the Senate.

Today, I am very hopeful that with the proper cooperation, we can get this done today and over to the President in the next 48 hours to begin the process of securing the border and dealing with an issue that may be the No. 1 issue in my State right now. I probably hear about this issue of illegal immigration from casual contact with my constituents in grocery stores, the train station, et cetera. I have more people asking me about the issue of illegal immigration than any other issue we deal with.

It is remarkable in the sense that if you talk to folks here in Washington and the "experts" in the media, this is not important to people. Particularly, you would think in a State such as Pennsylvania, which is miles away from the southern border but not too far from the northern border, this would not be an important issue. But it is an important issue. It is one that I am very pleased the Senate is going to deal with today after, I think, making a misstep in the previous consideration of illegal immigration legislation. We have now taken a step in the right direction, a step where we put the horse before the cart instead of the cart before the horse. So I am very excited about that. I will mention that in a moment.

There is one issue I wanted to get to. It is an issue the leader spoke about last night, the issue of Iran and the Iran Freedom and Support Act, which was passed in the House of Representatives yesterday. The House negotiated—and many of us in the Senate were involved, as well as the White House—and worked on an extension of the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, to update that act, which needed to be done, and to take into consideration the change in dynamics in Libya and the change in dynamics with respect to Iran.

There is no country that I see on the horizon that is more dangerous to the national security of this country, in my opinion, than the country of Iran—not just to the national security of this country but the safety and security of the world. We need to have a better regime of sanctions as well as a better overall policy for dealing with Iran than what we have today in the ILSA, or Iran Libya Sanctions Act.

The House of Representatives, on a bipartisan basis, worked on the legislation, again, with the administration, which previously had opposed the Iran

Freedom and Support Act, a bill that has 61 cosponsors here in the Senate, which we debated earlier this year. They took elements of that bill and the companion bill in the House, offered by ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN from Florida. Working together with several House and Senate committees and with the administration, they were able to come up with a compromise and, again, many of us in the Senate worked with the administration and the House in crafting this. We were able to pass a bill that got so much support, they didn't even have to take a record vote on it. It passed by consent over there. That tells you the kind of strong support the bill enjoys. It was a bill authored by TOM LANTOS and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and the chairman and ranking member of one of the committees of jurisdiction, the International Relations Committee, were on the legislation and, again, it passed yesterday unanimously. That bill now is sitting on the floor of the Senate, at the desk.

The leader mentioned last night that it is our intent to bring this legislation up and to try to pass it in the Senate. We did not, last night, ask consent to do that because we were made aware there might be concerns on the other side of the aisle with respect to some of the provisions. We wanted to give ample opportunity to have the other side go through the legislation.

Again, I state that this is not a new issue. I know the Democratic leader got up today and suggested that there have been no hearings on the bill and there hasn't really been a discussion on the bill. I will tell you that just within the last year, the following hearings were held:

There was an ILSA reauthorization hearing in the Banking Committee, June 22; a terrorist threat hearing in the Homeland Security Committee, November 15 of last year; a nuclear Iran hearing, Foreign Relations Committee, March 2; response to nuclear Iran, Foreign Relations, September 19 of this year; Iran's nuclear and political ambitions, a two-part hearing, May 17 and 18 of this year; Iran's nuclear program/intelligence, Foreign Relations Committee, May 11.

In addition, as I mentioned, the Senate fully debated for 3 days the amendment I had offered to the National Defense Authorization Act back in June of this year. We debated that amendment for 3 days. We had a vote on the Senate floor. We had a full discussion of all of the provisions in the act, many of which, as I mentioned before, have been dropped. But many of the provisions that were debated were added to this bill—the ones that were noncontroversial. Things that were controversial were adapted to make them noncontroversial.

To suggest that somehow this is a brandnew piece of legislation, we haven't seen this before, there haven't been any hearings, we don't know anything about it, is just not accurate. We have had a full debate.

This is an important issue. For the United States Senate, for the Congress, the President to speak out on the issue of Iran at this time is critical as we confront, as we saw from a couple weeks ago, the machinations at the United Nations and President Ahmadinejad up there saber rattling as he does a little bit at the United Nations, but he is rattling sabers and all other types of weaponry in front of the people of Iran when he goes home and he speaks in his native language.

This is a very serious and dangerous threat. It is without question the principal reason we are having increased problems in Afghanistan and Iraq, because of the influence of Iran. Iran is there with fighters from Iran, with money and support, weaponry from Iran to foment sectarian violence. One of the reasons we are having the level of sectarian violence that we see there is because of Iran and its stated intention of being the dominant view in the Islamic world. The clash between Shia and Sunni is front and center in the ideology of the ruling mullahs of Iran and the President of Iran, Ahmadinejad. This is what their objective is. It is part and parcel of their own war within their religion, but it is also part of their strategy of destabilizing Iraq so democracy cannot flourish because if democracy flourishes, then it is an opportunity for moderate Islam to win the day over the fanatics who are trying to destroy that religion and destroy the world.

This is a vitally important issue for the Senate to bring up, I think no more important issue than for us to deal with this real threat, as I said on the floor a couple of weeks ago, I think the greatest threat that has ever faced this country and the world. If we do not act now when this threat is in its nascent stage, we risk cataclysmic consequences by not confronting this evil in time. We risk cataclysmic consequences if we don't, as this legislation permits, put increased sanctions on companies that do business with Iran and their nuclear program.

This is a very important piece of legislation, one that is so important that we were able, as I mentioned before, to get this kind of very quick consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives, and it passed unanimously. People in the House understand the threat of Iran. I hope the Senate does so also.

I will submit for the record the provisions of what this bill does. Some have suggested that it is a watered-down version of the Iran Freedom and Support Act. So to that degree I say, yes, it is, but it is watered down for the purpose of arriving at a consensus so we can speak into the moment.

It does make major changes particularly with respect to the President's waiver. We have had ILSA now for 10 years. We have a situation where a waiver has only been utilized, to my recollection, one time because there is no requirement the President has to