

weather who are caught in traffic. I have two alternatives. One is when time is up, go into a quorum call. What I would like to do, because I know other people want to get the vote over and leave, what I would like to do, is let everyone know I would drag the vote. We do not have anything to do after the vote anyway. Unless there is some objection, I would let people know we are going to not be able to complete the vote probably until around 7 o'clock. I have two people, I understand one is a Democrat, one is a Republican. So if no one complains, I am going to go ahead and let the vote occur as required at approximately 6:25, and then I will drag the vote. Does anybody care about that?

Mr. President, it is my understanding the Democrats, under the control of Senator BAUCUS, are ready to yield back time. I want everyone to understand the vote is going to take more than the ordinary 15 minutes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator yields back.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I assume all time is yielded back?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. BAUCUS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on the engrossment of the amendment and third reading of the bill.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 415 Leg.]

YEAS—88

Akaka	Byrd	Dole
Alexander	Cantwell	Domenici
Allard	Cardin	Durbin
Barrasso	Casey	Enzi
Baucus	Chambliss	Feinstein
Bayh	Coburn	Graham
Bennett	Cochran	Grassley
Bingaman	Coleman	Gregg
Bond	Collins	Hagel
Boxer	Corker	Harkin
Brown	Cornyn	Hatch
Brownback	Craig	Hutchison
Bunning	Crapo	Inhofe
Burr	DeMint	Inouye

Isakson	McCaskill	Sessions
Johnson	McConnell	Shelby
Kennedy	Menendez	Smith
Kerry	Mikulski	Snowe
Klobuchar	Murkowski	Specter
Kohl	Murray	Stabenow
Kyl	Nelson (FL)	Stevens
Landrieu	Nelson (NE)	Sununu
Lautenberg	Pryor	Tester
Leahy	Reed	Thune
Levin	Reid	Vitter
Lieberman	Roberts	Warner
Lincoln	Rockefeller	Webb
Lott	Salazar	Wyden
Lugar	Sanders	
Martinez	Schumer	

NAYS—5

Carper	Dorgan	Whitehouse
Conrad	Feingold	

NOT VOTING—7

Biden	Ensign	Voinovich
Clinton	McCain	
Dodd	Obama	

The bill (H.R. 3996), as amended, was passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2419

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a limitation of 20 first-degree amendments per side on the farm bill, H.R. 2419, that they be from the original list of amendments already agreed to; that all other provisions of the previous agreement continue in effect; and that the managers' amendments cleared by both managers not be counted toward the 20.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT H.R. 6

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and the pledge tomorrow, the Senate proceed to the message from the House on H.R. 6, the comprehensive Energy bill; that notwithstanding the receipt of the papers, the majority leader be immediately recognized to move to concur in the House amendment and to file cloture on that motion; that there be 20 minutes equally divided in the usual form for debate on the majority leader's motion, followed by a cloture motion on that motion; that there be no other motions or amendments in order prior to the vote; further, that the cloture vote on the substitute amendment to the farm bill be delayed to occur at a later time, to be determined by the majority leader after consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, certainly the Senate is a place for squabbles. We have had lots of them. But also with the work that has to be done in this body, sometimes it takes a little debate here and there.

Today has been an important day for the Senate. We have been in a quorum call a lot. But during the time there were speeches being made on rare occasion here, there was a lot of work being done. The AMT is now done. I don't know that that is the case yet, but I heard that the House indicated they will accept our bill. That is quite important.

We have been working for weeks on the farm bill. A cloture vote is set at 9 o'clock in the morning, or whatever time we agree to. Maybe we would have gotten cloture on that, I don't know. I am happy with this agreement. It will be a lot of work, but we will finish the farm bill before we leave, unless something untoward happens.

This has been a day of progress. Tomorrow we will finish work on the farm bill, and there will be one vote. After we do that, the two managers, Senators HARKIN and CHAMBLISS, said they will work through amendments tomorrow. There are a lot of amendments that can be agreed to. We want Senators, tomorrow and Monday—there will be no votes on Monday, but if Senators feel strongly about an amendment, work with the managers and have that offered and have that be one of the 40. Hopefully, we can set up votes for Tuesday and finish the bill sometime before we leave here.

On the Energy bill, we are going to have a cloture vote in the morning. From all indications I have gotten from the minority, cloture will not be invoked. I will give a speech and others will. We would have Saturday, Sunday, and Monday to try to come up with how we are going to proceed on this matter afterward. I hope we can work something out by consent; otherwise, because of the way we have the bill, I have the authority to do certain things. I would rather do it by consent. I will do the best I can to be as cooperative as possible with the minority. It is an extremely important piece of legislation. I think there is a mindset of everyone here to do an energy bill. The question is, what is in it? If we have a bill, will it be signed by the President?

I understand all of the moving parts of the bill. But we have made progress today with AMT, the farm bill, and now the Energy bill, on which we have had an agreement to move this up 1 day and not be here Saturday.

For everyone who thinks we don't get a lot done, we and our staffs will be heavily involved in the matters I have outlined over the weekend. So I appreciate the cooperation of the Senators to get to the point where we are, and I feel pretty good about the day's work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me just say I do agree with the majority leader that we made some substantial progress today. First of all, on the principle that in order to extend tax relief to one set of Americans we don't have to raise taxes on another set of Americans, all but five Members of the

Senate concurred in that approach to extension of the AMT relief. I think that is an extremely important principle to be established in the Senate.

With regard to the farm bill, there is widespread agreement on both sides of the aisle that we ought to pass a farm bill and we ought to pass it as soon as possible. I think getting the consent agreement to get the amendments down to 20 on each side is a significant step in that direction. I am pleased to hear the majority leader would like for us to stay on that bill, make progress on it, and finish it before Christmas. That is certainly my view as well.

With regard to the Energy bill, we understand there are two highly contentious, well-publicized provisions of tax increases that have been inserted by the House: At a time when oil is close to \$100 a barrel, many of us think a tax increase is not a good idea, and the wind mandate, which is particularly onerous on those of us in the Southeast where there is not much wind, which basically means, in effect, a mandatory rate increase for utilities and for utility ratepayers all across the Southeast. I am hopeful we can get those two items out of that bill.

The President has indicated he will veto the bill, and I think there is a view on the other side of the aisle, as well as on our side, that we would like to have an energy bill actually enacted into law; that is, signed by the President. As the majority leader has indicated, hopefully we can get those problems removed from the Energy bill next week and move toward a Presidential signature.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. REID. If my friend will allow me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this has been cleared by floor staff. The unanimous consent request I just entered needs a clarification. So I ask unanimous consent that it be clarified that nothing else be in order prior to the vote tomorrow morning—no points of order. I think there is a general understanding.

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

The senior Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I just want to say that I have no objection. I wish to comment on the Energy bill. It has been a long time getting here, and it still is not finished. There are provisions of that Energy bill that, if passed, will be superb for the people of this country. It is too bad the bill is laden now with two provisions that we did not have in our bill, that we did not contemplate. We will have to work our way and see what happens. They are serious. They are serious enough to cause the President to veto the bill. I am hopeful we will be able to find our way to get those two provisions out—the

tax provision and the provision with reference to mandatory 15-percent alternative energy fuels in our States. Those two are very difficult. If we keep any of them in, our work is going to be for naught.

So I hope everybody understands the situation. It will be an excellent bill without those provisions, and there may be a few other cleanup provisions we need in the House bill. We will work on them in the next few days.

I thank the leaders.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. What is the floor situation, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore is notified there are no orders in effect.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I speak out of order for no more than 10 minutes.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONONGAH, WEST VIRGINIA, MINE DISASTER

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as a son of West Virginia's southern coalfields who grew up in a coal miner's home and married a coal miner's daughter, I note that today is the 100th anniversary of the Monongah, WV, mine disaster, a particularly momentous and solemn observance for the coal miners of West Virginia.

The Monongah, WV, mine disaster remains today the worst industrial accident in American history. At least 362 coal miners lost their lives in that explosion on that cold December day, December 6, 1907. The truth is, some of the miners inside Fairmont Coal Company's No. 6 and No. 8 mines were boys—mere children, in fact—whose names did not appear on the company's official ledgers. So we may never know exactly how many lives were lost inside that mine on that dark day.

Sadly, many more miners across West Virginia and the Nation would perish, including another 78 miners in an explosion in that same West Virginia community a little over 60 years later, before Congress would respond with the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.

Coal miners are a different breed. Coal miners are bound together in ways perhaps not unlike the bonds that develop between soldiers or others whose occupations are inherently dangerous. Coal miners share a vocabulary foreign to most outsiders. Coal miners must place great trust in the persons next to them for their safety. Although mortal danger stalks them daily, in every minute of every day, this mutual trust and mutual dependence creates unusually strong bonds. Coal miners enjoy an unusually deep camaraderie.

Today in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Montana, Virginia, Utah, Alabama, Wyoming, and West Virginia, coal miners are marking the 100th anniversary—that is today—of the Monongah, WV, mine disaster.

They do it with reverence, and they honor their survivors. In West Virginia, we also mark December 6 as Miner Day and celebrate all coal miners—past, present, and future.

Coal remains today, this very moment, the backbone of America's energy supply. Over half of all the electricity we consume every day—and some of it is burning here tonight in the ceiling of this Hall—over half of all the electricity we consume every day is provided by coal miners. We must protect those coal miners. The names Alma, Darby, Crandall Canyon, and Sago remind us that mine disasters are not simply a part of the coal industry's past; they are part of our present.

As we remember the miners who lost their lives at Monongah on that cold December day in 1907, let us also recommit ourselves to protecting the health and the safety of all those men and women who so bravely toil in our coal mines today. May we also take a moment to consider that the current political debate regarding the future of coal—black diamonds—in our national energy policy is taking place under lights—right here, for example—under lights illuminated by the work of coal miners, in the warmth of furnaces fueled by coal miners and completely independent of any foreign sheik or imam, thanks to coal miners—coal miners such as my dad, coal miners such as my wife's father, coal miners such as my brother-in-law. Coal miners, coal miners—may God bless them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. 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. REID. I ask unanimous consent the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent we proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

SNOWSPORTS OUTREACH SOCIETY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the work of the Snowsports Outreach Society, SOS Outreach, based in Vail, CO, which is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation and confidence-building opportunities to underprivileged youth.

The snow sports industry is an essential part of Colorado's lifestyle, economy, and image. Colorado's mountainous terrain and world-class resorts have set the standard for the ultimate experience in sliding on snow. As a skier, I understand the importance of this outdoor activity—in all its forms—