

that doesn't work, I have no alternative but to file cloture on that amendment. If I do that tonight, there will be a cloture vote on Saturday. I don't want a cloture vote on Saturday—no one does—but we have no alternative. We have to finish what we have to do here.

Now, if I file cloture on it, maybe they would agree to allow us to have the cloture vote tomorrow.

We have some other things we need to do. Everyone should be alerted. With the permission of the—well, I don't need to say the "permission." Whenever we finish the firefighters amendment sometime tomorrow, cloture will be sought on the bill. We still have Republican and Democratic amendments out there floating around. Some people don't come and offer them; some people won't debate their amendments. Once the firefighter issue is out of the way, we are going to see if we can invoke cloture on the bill.

I think there is general consensus that, as with immigration, we have had enough of farm legislation this year. We have all been very patient. It has been a very distressing issue on occasion. We have done a lot of finger-pointing. It is time now that we pass the farm bill. So the issue relating to firefighting is on the bill. It was one of the Republicans' amendments, and now it is a Democratic amendment.

That is where we are. That has nothing to do with some real good news. I just wanted to alert everyone as to what we are doing.

Mr. President, we had a little going away party sponsored by the Republican leader and me yesterday in the Mansfield Room. It was a wonderful occasion. It was the farewell to Senator TRENT LOTT. I said something there that I am saying again here today. Edmund Burke, the famous Irish statesman and philosopher, said:

All government, every virtue and every prudent act, is founded on compromise.

Listen to what this brilliant man said:

All government, every virtue and every prudent act, is founded on compromise.

"Compromise" is not a dirty word. Consensus building is what we have to do. It can be frustrating. It can be exasperating. It can be maddening. But at the end of the day, compromise leads to progress. That is what we have today. Progress. The last time America raised fuel economy standards was 30 years ago. We didn't have airbags, the Internet was a science fiction fantasy, and the closest thing to GPS was a map. You went to a service station and they gave it to you. Today we have hybrid cars, hydrogen cars, ethanol cars, fully electric cars.

Now, after 30 years, we are going to pass a new fuel economy standard. This is not only important, it is historic. This is a good energy bill. There are so many heroes. One just walked past me: DIANNE FEINSTEIN. There is lots of credit to go around. It will save consumers money. It will begin to reverse

our addiction to oil. It will take a small first step in our fight to turn the tide of global warming. Could this bill have been better? Of course it could have been better. Absolutely. But we are not going to talk today about what could have been in it to make it better. We have been through that. What we want to talk about today is this bill will be a win for the American people.

It may be a split decision, as we have in boxing matches, but if you have a split decision in a boxing match, there are still winners, and we have winners in this matter today. Who are the winners? Not me, not the Republican leader, none of the 98 other Senators are winners. It is a partnership. We have worked together. All Senators and all House Members are going to be able to walk out and hold their chests out, hold their heads high, and say: We passed an energy bill. Not only does Congress get credit for this, the White House gets credit for it. It sets new fuel economy standards for the first time in 30 years: 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel will replace oil by 2022. It creates new energy efficiency standards, everything from light bulbs, to refrigerators, to the construction of new buildings. Because of the Energy bill we will pass in just a few minutes, Americans will save money every day.

I say to the Senate, to the House of Representatives, to the President of the United States: Congratulations.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 69, the continuing resolution just received from the House; that the joint resolution be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate.

I would tell everyone this is for 1 week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 69) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called 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 Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 430 Leg.]

YEAS—86

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Akaka | Dorgan | Mikulski |
| Alexander | Durbin | Murkowski |
| Allard | Ensign | Murray |
| Baucus | Feingold | Nelson (FL) |
| Bayh | Feinstein | Nelson (NE) |
| Bennett | Graham | Pryor |
| Bingaman | Grassley | Reed |
| Bond | Gregg | Reid |
| Boxer | Harkin | Roberts |
| Brown | Hutchison | Rockefeller |
| Brownback | Inouye | Salazar |
| Bunning | Isakson | Sanders |
| Burr | Johnson | Schumer |
| Byrd | Kennedy | Sessions |
| Cantwell | Kerry | Shelby |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Carper | Kohl | Snowe |
| Casey | Landrieu | Specter |
| Chambliss | Lautenberg | Stevens |
| Cochran | Leahy | Sununu |
| Coleman | Levin | Tester |
| Collins | Lieberman | Thune |
| Conrad | Lincoln | Vitter |
| Corker | Lott | Voivovich |
| Cornyn | Lugar | Warner |
| Craig | Martinez | Webb |
| Crapo | McCaskill | Whitehouse |
| Dole | McConnell | Wyden |
| Domenici | Menendez | |

NAYS—8

| | | |
|----------|--------|----------|
| Barrasso | Enzi | Kyl |
| Coburn | Hatch | Stabenow |
| DeMint | Inhofe | |

NOT VOTING—6

| | | |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Biden | Dodd | McCain |
| Clinton | Hagel | Obama |

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the title of the bill, and the motions to reconsider are laid on the table.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for a couple of minutes on the subject of the bill that passed.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, many years ago, exactly 6, Senator SNOWE and I began this effort. Prior to that time—and I give credit to Senators Dick Bryan and Slade Gorton, who began this effort back in 1993 with me. We tried to do a sense of the Senate. We didn't succeed. Then Senator SNOWE and I did the SUV loophole closer, and we didn't succeed. Then suddenly the times changed and we had introduced this bill in committee. Both the chairman, Senator INOUE, the ranking member, Senator STEVENS, and the Commerce Committee allowed us to come before them and ply our troth of this bill. And we did. The Commerce Committee unanimously passed out the bill. That was in itself a stellar moment.

Then there was the House and there was the negotiation with Representative DINGELL and others. A bill finally

emerged—a lot of trial, a lot of tribulation. But I owe a great deal to Senator SNOWE. I want her to know that. I thank her for her solidarity, for her intelligence, for working with me over these past 6 years. It has been a wonderful bipartisan relationship and one I will treasure.

I also thank Senator INOUE as chairman of the committee and Senator STEVENS, Senators CANTWELL, KERRY, CARPER, DORGAN, and my pal and friend, Senator BOXER.

We had some great staff from my office. I thank them: John Watts, Matt Nelson, my LD, Chris Thompson, who participated in much of the negotiations. But I also give kudos to a member of Senator INOUE's Commerce Committee staff, and his name is David Strickland. David Strickland knows more about automobiles than most people all put together in this Chamber. There may be a few exceptions, but I have never met anyone who knows more about the automobile. He conducted the negotiations with the House and worked very late hours. I want him to know how much his talent, his technical expertise is appreciated.

I see Senator CARPER. I think I mentioned him. We had many conversations over the recess on the bill. I thank him for his support and for his commitment to this bill.

This is not an easy bill to do because we know we have automobile producers in this country, and we know these companies have problems. Yet we also know time is marching on and the need to move fuel efficiency, which has not happened for 32 years, is important if we are going to solve the problems of climate change. This is a first big step.

Transportation is about a third of our greenhouse gas emissions. By 2025, this bill will reduce these emissions from automobiles by about 18 percent from projected levels. It is about, by 2020, a 40-percent increase in mileage of automobiles. So it is important.

Oh, there is so much we do in this Chamber that is minutiae and often unrewarded. Once in a great while, you participate in the making of a bill which can change how things are done in the country. Once in a while, we all together can make a difference, and that happens when it is bipartisan. This bill was bipartisan. For that, I am very grateful.

So for all those who fought the good fight, who talked and walked the march, I say thank you. I think we have achieved something that is major, that is real, and that will greatly improve the situation. It may not be perfect, but the perfect, as they say, should not be the enemy of the good.

I also pay tribute and thank Senator LEVIN and Senator STABENOW. I know this is difficult, and I know how I would feel. I also believe the greater good of the United States is served by this legislation and, after all, that is all of our objectives.

I look forward to working with everyone in the future. It is a very happy

evening for me. I thank everyone very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007—Continued

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the regular order on amendment No. 3823.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, was there a request?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I am asking for the regular order on amendment No. 3823.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am confident this is the right thing to do. The two managers of the bill are not here right now. Until they return, I think we should wait.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the regular order.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

I have no right to suggest the absence of a quorum. The Senator has the floor. I interrupted him.

Mr. GRASSLEY. The managers of the amendments are trying to get amendments brought up. I am ready to go, and they asked if I was ready to go.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, I had conversations with the two of them. They are in the back coming up with something in writing to proceed through these amendments.

Go ahead. Regular order, Mr. President, fine.

AMENDMENT NO. 3823

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is now pending. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, amendment No. 3823 deals with agricultural competition and increased consolidation in the agricultural industry. The amendment is cosponsored by me, Senator GRASSLEY, and two Democrats—Senator KOHL and Senator HARKIN.

I wish to make it very clear—and I will get into some detail—there may be some people who feel the amendment I have put before the Senate is exactly the same as a bill Senator KOHL and I had introduced previously. It is very slimmed down from that bill. So any staff who is watching the debate and getting nervous about an amendment coming up that every big industry in the United States may find fault with, we are talking about a very slimmed-down version of it. I will explain all that shortly.

I have been concerned with competition in the agricultural marketplace and increased competition in the agricultural industry for quite some time now. You have heard me speak about it on the floor. We have had hearings on it. I had hearings in the Senate Finance Committee, as well as hearings I participated in under both Republican and Democratic chairmanships of the Judiciary Committee.

Agriculture, as you know, is a fairly risky business. I know that from personal experience because I have lived

and worked on a farm all my life. But for some time, working in agriculture has become even more difficult for the little guy. The trend has been for companies in the agricultural sector to consolidate. I am talking about businesses that serve agriculture with input. I am talking about industry that processes agriculture. So there has been consolidation in that industry. I am not talking about the consolidation of farms. There has been that as well. That has been going on since 1790, when 90 percent of the people in this country were farmers. Today, 2 percent of the people in this country are farmers. I am talking about the impact of agriculture agribusiness consolidation and the impact upon the 2 percent of the people in this country who are farmers.

This consolidation has created new business giants impacting competition in the marketplace for the family farmers, for producers, and for consumers. Family farms and independent producers are feeling the pressure of concentration in agriculture. Small and independent producers are seeing fewer choices—who the farmer can buy from and to whom the farmer can sell.

All this consolidation in industry at both the horizontal and vertical levels leads to the very real possibility of fewer product choices and higher prices for consumers.

I don't believe all mergers are, per se, bad, and I don't believe all are wrong and all lead to unfairness. But I think at the same time we need to make sure—we need to make very sure—open and fair access to the marketplace is preserved for everyone. We need to make sure large businesses are not acting in a predatory or anticompetitive manner. We need to make sure family farmers and independent producers can compete on a level playing field. We need to make sure consumers have as many choices as possible.

So I am not talking just about mergers and lack of competition being harmful just to farmers, I am talking about the impact that might have on consumers paying more. The antitrust laws are all about protecting consumers, not about protecting producers. But in the case of family farmers, they are purchasers of input, and so they are consumers. But they also have to make sure that the marketplace is protected for the ultimate end-consumer, the consumer of our agricultural products.

By looking out for these things, you know what we end up doing, Mr. President? We keep our economy strong because of competition. We keep our agricultural community vibrant. We keep it competitive. And hopefully, in the end, we keep our consumers happy, with quality food at a relatively inexpensive price. American consumers don't know that, but they already have that environment from our farmers. We take too much for granted in America, so I am not so sure consumers know that, and I like to remind them from time to time.