

The amendment (No. 2689) was agreed to.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted and Proposed.")

Mr. TORRICELLI. I express my thanks to Senator DASCHLE, Senator LOTT, Senator BAUCUS, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator NICKLES, and so many Members of the Senate who made this possible. I know during this Christmas season that the plight and distress of the families of those who lost their lives in Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania will be in all of our thoughts. That really is not enough.

Charities have raised an enormous amount of money, but it has not gotten to the victims' families. There is a victims' fund this Government has raised, but it has not yet gotten to these victims' families. This tax relief offers real and immediate benefits. It has the promise that as American citizens give funds to charities, the funds from those charities will not in turn be taxed as they get to the widows, the parents, or other relatives. It holds the promise that there will be a refund given to many of these families.

Offering financial relief is little solace given such enormous pain, but it is of some help. Families who have buried their loved ones are also paying mortgages, tuition, and buying groceries. This is real help.

I am grateful to the Members of the Senate who have helped pass this legislation. I am grateful to Chairman THOMAS of the House Ways and Means Committee who has been with us as an architect in its passage.

I express on behalf of all the families for whom this means so much in this holiday season their gratitude to all of you who have made this possible. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I thank both Senators from New Jersey for their extraordinary work in getting us to this point. This was not easy, and I am grateful to them for their persistence, their leadership, and their efforts. This would not have happened were it not for their direct involvement to this moment. I say the same to the Senators from New York for the tremendous work they have done assisting us in getting to this point as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I will be brief because I know we want to finish up the debate on the Defense appropriations conference report and get a recorded vote. There are Senators who would like that to occur sooner rather than later, so I will not belabor the point.

I am glad we worked out the agreement on the victims' disaster of September 11. I appreciate the cooperation all the way around. One can tell by the discussion that one of the reasons some of these other meritorious items were

not added is that once we had one, there would be two, three, four, and we could not get all those worked out in the short time we had, and we stood the chance of losing the victims' tax provisions. I am glad we did that.

Also, I understand many of these provisions, including the New York provision, are in the stimulus package that has been voted on by the House. We are going to eventually get a stimulus package, and I hope and expect that provision will be in the bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. CORZINE. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, I, too, thank the Senate and the leadership of Senator DASCHLE, Senator LOTT, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Senator BAUCUS, and others who have worked with us to allow this victims' relief effort to come to pass.

Nothing can be more sincere and heartfelt during this holiday season than to respond with this legislation for families who have lost so much.

I thank the Senate for its efforts.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, it is my understanding we now have agreement to go directly to the vote on the conference report to H.R. 3338. I appreciate everyone's cooperation in that regard and I ask that the Senate proceed. For the interest of all Senators, this will be the last vote of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. I will take 30 seconds. I had agreed, in the interest of letting Senators catch their planes, to having the vote and then have my statement concerning the homeland defense part appear in the RECORD as though spoken before the vote. That unanimous consent was not agreed to and others spoke. The Senator from Arizona spoke. It was my understanding we would all give up that privilege and we would vote without speaking. Others have spoken. I am not going to stand in the way of Senators going home on this occasion, so I want to make it clear I did not object in the beginning so everybody who had speeches could make them.

I am willing to give up my speech right now. It is a great speech, but I will make it after the vote. I wanted to call it to the attention of the Senate that I kind of begrudgingly agreed to that request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

Mr. DASCHLE. 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 concurrent resolution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 380 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Allard	Durbin	Mikulski
Allen	Edwards	Miller
Baucus	Enzi	Murkowski
Bayh	Feingold	Murray
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Frist	Nickles
Boxer	Graham	Reed
Breaux	Grassley	Reid
Brownback	Gregg	Roberts
Bunning	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burns	Harkin	Santorum
Byrd	Hatch	Sarbanes
Campbell	Hollings	Schumer
Cantwell	Hutchinson	Sessions
Carnahan	Hutchison	Shelby
Carper	Inhofe	Smith (NH)
Chafee	Inouye	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Jeffords	Snowe
Clinton	Johnson	Specter
Cochran	Kennedy	Stabenow
Collins	Kerry	Stevens
Conrad	Kohl	Thomas
Corzine	Kyl	Thompson
Craig	Landrieu	Thurmond
Crapo	Leahy	Torricelli
Daschle	Levin	Voinovich
Dayton	Lieberman	Warner
DeWine	Lincoln	Wellstone
Dodd	Lott	Wyden
Domenici	Lugar	
Dorgan	McConnell	

NAYS—2

Gramm
McCain

NOT VOTING—4

Akaka
Bond
Ensign
Helms

The conference report (H.R. 3338) was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LOTT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, if I may take just one moment. I see Senator DASCHLE is getting ready to propound some unanimous consent requests.

Let me take a moment to say to the managers of the legislation and the chairman and ranking member of the committee, I know this has not been easy. There have been a lot of great ideas on both sides of the aisle as to how we could improve it or change it. You have been tenacious, you stuck with it, and you produced a good piece of legislation that is important for our country, important for our men and women in uniform.

This very morning the President called and said he was pleased with the result and he appreciates the leadership the Senate gave in this area.