

days today. Momma does not hold me anymore. I open my mouth but I am too weak to cry. Far above a bird slowly crawls across the sky. Why is there nothing left to do but die?

Those were lyrics by the late Harry Chapin. Harry was a terrific friend. He dedicated the proceeds from one-half of his concerts every year to fight world hunger. He used to say, if one night 45,000 people died of hunger in New Jersey, it would make headlines around the world, giant headlines in every paper in the world. But the winds of hunger blow every day, every hour, every minute, and 45,000 people, mostly children, die every day, and it doesn't make the newspaper.

Now we have a gripping famine in a part of the world that some of us believe we have a moral responsibility to address in a much more aggressive way than we have been willing to address previously. Yet a relatively small amendment I offered on Thursday was defeated by two votes, and I was told before I offered it: Go ahead and offer your amendment. We will defeat it. And this was before they knew what the amendment was about.

That is not the kind of priority you would expect from the Senate. I regret very much that we passed this global AIDS bill and did not attach the \$250 million in food aid to which the Senate had previously agreed. We don't have much time if we care about world hunger. If we care about saving these children, if we care about doing what we need to do, what our responsibility would call us to do at this moment, then we must regroup and pass legislation of the type I offered Thursday night.

Again, it was hard to sleep, and this weekend I thought a lot about that, wondering why was the Senate so much more interested in providing tax cuts than it was in providing assistance to those starving in other parts of the world.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Parliamentary inquiry: Would the Chair advise the Senate with regard to the time remaining in morning business?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There are 9 minutes remaining to the majority in morning business.

Mr. WARNER. I judge no time remaining for the minority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. WARNER. On behalf of the majority leader, I ask now that all time be yielded back on behalf of the majority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time is yielded back. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to consideration of S. 1050, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1050) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that William Buhrow, a legislative fellow in the office of Senator GEORGE ALLEN, be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of S. 1050.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jason Hamm, of the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the debate on the fiscal year 2004 defense authorization.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the staff members of the Committee on Armed Services, majority and minority, appearing on the list I send to the desk be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of S. 1050.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The list is as follows:

Judith A. Ansley; Richard D. DeBobs; Charles W. Alsop; Kenneth Barbee; Michael N. Berger; June M. Borawski; Leah C. Brewer; Jennifer D. Cave; L. David Cherington; Christine E. Cowart; Daniel J. Cox, Jr.; Madelyn R. Creedon; Kenneth M. Crosswait; Marie Fabrizio Dickinson; Gabriella Eisen; Evelyn N. Farkas.

Richard W. Fieldhouse; Andrew W. Florell; Brian R. Green; Creighton Greene; William C. Greenwalt; Carolyn M. Hanna; Mary Alice A. Hayward; Jeremy L. Hekhuis; Ambrose R. Hock; Gary J. Howard; R. Andrew Kent; Jennifer Key; Gregory T. Kiley; Maren R. Leed; Gerald J. Leeling; Peter K. Levine.

Patricia L. Lewis; Thomas L. MacKenzie; Sara R. Mareno; Ann M. Mittermeyer; Lucian L. Niemeyer; Cindy Pearson; Paula J. Philbin; Lynn F. Rusten; Arun A. Seraphin; Joseph T. Sixeas; Christina D. Still; Scott W. Stucky; Mary Louise Wagner; Richard F. Walsh; Nicholas W. West; Bridget M. Whalan; Pendred K. Wilson.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MCCAIN's legislative fellow, Navy Commander Edward Cowan, be granted privilege of the floor during consideration of S. 1050.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I see the distinguished Senator from Michi-

gan on the floor. I advise my good friend and partner on this venture that I will proceed for some 10 minutes and then yield the floor, on the assumption that he will proceed, and then I will resume with the remainder of my statement.

On behalf of the Armed Services Committee, I am pleased and honored to bring the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 to the Senate for consideration. The bill was reported out of the committee with overwhelming bipartisan support. I may say, as a tribute to excellent staff work and excellent work by the chairman and ranking members of the subcommittees and, indeed, by the full cooperation of my distinguished colleague, the ranking member, we achieved this markup in what is regarded to be record time. I didn't keep the time, but I certainly recognize that we did it in a very brief period; basically over a 2-day period, where many times heretofore it has been 3, 4, and 5 days for markup.

I think the committee, both members and staff, were aware of the tremendous support across this Nation by the people for the men and women of the Armed Forces today and a recognition of the responsibilities of the Congress of the United States—in this case the Senate—to provide for those men and women of the Armed Forces.

Having said that, I believe that contributed to the swift action we had on our bill in committee markup, and I anticipate—I say this respectfully—in the Chamber a number of amendments will come forth, but I believe we will be able to complete this bill in a relatively short period of time, owing again to the support in the Chamber for the men and women of the Armed Forces and the desire to have a strong bill in place to go to conference with the House.

As we stand here beginning the debate on this bill today, over 300,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, Active Guard and Reserve, and countless civilians who support them, are serving bravely in not just the Persian Gulf region but Afghanistan.

It is remarkable. I want to mention the civilians. I recently said to the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld, when we talked about the total force concept, I remembered so well that that concept was originated when Melvin Laird was Secretary of Defense and I was privileged to serve as the Secretary of the Navy during the Vietnam war. I said to Mr. Rumsfeld recently that we really ought to broaden the term "total force" now to incorporate the many civilians who quite often are in positions of personal risk and other situations not unlike those of the men and women of the Armed Forces, right up on the point of the spear of military action.

In my judgment, they are just as much a part of the total force as the uniformed contingent, and I think the uniformed contingent would want me