

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

AVIATION SECURITY ACT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I am not going to take long. I know there are other colleagues who are going to want to speak, but I do want to talk about where we are right now in this Senate Chamber. I want to try to do that not in an abstract way but in relation to what is happening throughout the country and, particularly, I want to talk about my State of Minnesota.

Yesterday we had a field hearing in Minnesota. It was a formal hearing of the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety and Training of which I am lucky enough to chair. It was just absolutely packed with people. I am not sure that is good news. I think it was packed with people because we have had a sharp economic downturn, and it affects a broad section of the population in Minnesota and around the country.

I said yesterday that I cannot remember—and I think I said this to the distinguished Presiding Officer—another time in my adult life when I ever felt as if our country was facing three challenges or crises and all at the same time.

One of them has to do with the world that we live in—military action, use of force in Afghanistan. I have said back home that I very much want this action to be successful. I think it is terribly important that it is with the most careful targeting. I think it is essential that we do everything we know how to do to minimize the loss of innocent civilian life.

I pray for the men and women of our armed services, and, frankly, I pray no innocent Afghan, or anyone else, is killed in this process.

I had a chance to talk with the Ambassador to Pakistan today and was asking her how things were going in her country. And she, too, talked about how it is so important that what we do militarily, and in many other ways, we do in the right way. Whatever we do has to be consistent with our own values. That means, above and beyond the use of force, dealing with the humanitarian crisis, dealing with the massive hunger and starvation in Afghanistan, and doing everything we can to minimize the loss of civilian life.

Then there is the whole question of physical security in our own country. Today Chairman KENNEDY and the HELP Committee had very powerful hearings. The distinguished Chair testified about his work and some of his legislation as to what we need to do to better defend our own homeland. Then there is economic security. What I rise to discuss briefly is my indignation about some of the opposition and delay. Quite often, one person's political truth is another person's political horror. We are all different, and political truth can be illusive. We have dif-

ferent ideas. People of good conscience can disagree. That always is the case, including now as well.

I have to say I don't really know how any Senator, Democrat or Republican, can go home, after we have provided \$15 billion of help for the airline industry—which we should have done; I don't think they are playing Chicken Little crying that the sky is falling in—now and be unwilling to provide the employees with help.

Senator CARNAHAN has an amendment, in which a number of us have joined—it makes all the sense in the world—extending unemployment insurance to a full year, picking up the cost of COBRA or helping people get Medicaid assistance—when you lose your job, the other thing that is so terrifying in our country is, you lose your health care coverage for yourself and your loved ones—making sure that that is there, making sure the funding is there for training. I am just amazed at the opposition to this amendment. I am amazed that we have been having to go through cloture votes, and now people want to burn up yet more time.

For my own point of view, I don't think we should move. Senator HOLLINGS is right that one of the best ways to get this industry back on its feet is to have people think they are safe. God knows the whole notion of federalizing the security forces is what the vast majority of people are for. That is apparently being opposed. There are other colleagues who talk about Amtrak and say there has to be a commitment to that as part of our transportation system. They are right.

What I want to relate today is what Senator DAYTON and other colleagues from Minnesota, Democrats and Republicans, heard at our field hearing, which was all the employees, 4,500 people out of work, who were asking: What about us? You helped the industry. Fine. But what about working families? What about us?

I said about a week ago now that I believe the people values are coming out in the country. September 11 and beyond, people really are very committed to helping one another. I can't quite figure out why that has not extended to the Senate.

There will be plenty of discussion about this in the Chamber, but as far as I am concerned, this is the place we draw the line. This airline security bill has to pass. If there is opposition to federalizing part of the security forces, so be it; we will vote on it. If there is opposition to providing the help to employees I just outlined, the Carnahan amendment, then we will vote on it. If there is opposition to other amendments, then we will vote on them.

I just can't, for the life of me, understand the opposition. I can't understand why we wouldn't want to help people flat on their back. Frankly, I don't want to go back home to Minnesota and face these employees and tell them that Congress was unwilling to provide the help.

I thank the majority leader and the whip, Senator REID, for their commitment. I am committed to this fight. We are unified as a country. There is no question about it. We have to be our own best selves. To me, part of being your own best self is to speak out and advocate for people you love and believe in who need help. That is what we are talking about right now.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I am pleased to yield.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that the Senator has offered a resolution—in fact, did so last week—commending the Capitol Police for the valiant work they did on September 11 and what they have done since then; is that true?

Mr. WELLSTONE. That is true. I did offer an amendment, and I was hoping that every single Senator would support it. I thought on Thursday or Friday maybe the whip could help me out. I actually submitted it. I didn't want to make a big hoo-ha about it. I wanted to thank the Capitol Police and thought maybe we would pass it by unanimous consent. Then we could send it out and let everyone know we have expressed our appreciation.

My understanding is, it has been blocked; is that correct?

Mr. REID. That is my understanding. We wanted that cleared last week, but somebody is holding this up. My friend knows how holds work. We have a general idea from where they come but not specifically from whom. I say to the Senator from Minnesota, he has always been such a supporter of the Capitol Police. He has always been thoughtful and kind to them. I have seen that as he walked through the Capitol. I personally am so grateful for the work they have done. Prior to September 11, I always felt really strongly about the work they did. Since September 11, my emotions have run much higher.

I commend the Senator from Minnesota for this resolution. I want him to know we are going to continue to talk about this resolution until it is cleared. Otherwise, we will try to figure out a way to get a vote on it so anyone who has the audacity to stand and not say to the Capitol Police they have done a good job will have to come forward and be counted.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will not speak much longer. Let me say to the whip—who, by the way, also was a member of the Capitol Police, the only one in the Senate—I thank him. I don't even want to make a big deal of this. In fact, I am almost embarrassed about it. This now is going to become a point of contention? I am a pretty good rabble-rouser. I didn't think this would be something on which we would have to go this far.

My hope is that it will pass. I say to the whip that I would like to get his help, that if this doesn't clear today, then I will prepare an amendment. I would love to have the whip's support

and do it with him. We will just come out here and have a debate, I suppose, if Senators are opposed to the resolution of support. Above and beyond that, we are talking about a lot of Capitol Police. They are working 6 days a week, 12 hours a day. Frankly, the whip discussed this with me. Above and beyond just the resolution saying "thank you for your support," the other point is the additional resources. With all due respect, there will have to be additional resources to go to them for them to be able to do this job.

I thought when I came back that this resolution would have been passed. I wouldn't have thought there would have been any controversy. I thought we then could notify the police.

Now what we will do is talk about it for a day or so. We will keep asking who is holding it up. We will keep asking why. It is hardly a way to say thank you to the police. And if necessary, we will have an amendment on it.

Mr. REID. I say to the Senator, I am hopeful and confident that it is just a misunderstanding. Otherwise, we will have to move forward as the Senator from Minnesota has indicated.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in a period of morning business until the hour of 4 o'clock today with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. REID. And that the time continue to be charged against the underlying matter before the Senate; that is, on the motion that is postclosure.

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

AVIATION SECURITY AND THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I was actually thinking about reading some of the descriptions and testimony of some of the people who spoke yesterday.

Let me just say one more time that on this one, we don't budge until we get the help for the employees. That is all there is to it. If that is the difference between Democrats and Republicans, so be it. That would make me proud to be a Democrat. If it does not end up being the difference between Democrats and Republicans and we do it in a bipartisan way, all the better. But we are not waiting any longer. I am not going back home again this weekend trying to explain to people how in the world the Senate could not provide them some support.

My final point is, the truth is, we need to be doing this business and more because, frankly, we have something else that is ahead of us, which is all the other people in Minnesota and in the

country who have been affected, all of the other people who are losing their jobs, whether it be in the tourism industry, hotel/restaurant, related to tourism, whatnot, whether it be small businesses, or whether it be people in high-tech. There are a lot of people right now who are out of work. A lot of small businesses lost some of their business, and they never had a lot of capital to rely on in the first place.

So I just say to colleagues that we are in a serious recession in our country. These are hard economic times. We need to put a stimulus package together next week. We need to have the stimulus package large enough to make a difference. It has to be something that focuses on getting money into the hands of consumers—those who will make purchases right away. It has to take effect within the next couple of months, frankly, to really make a difference. There are a lot of people who, A, could use the help and, B, this would put purchasing power back into the economy. Unemployment benefits need to be extended and improved. There is the health care coverage for people and child care expenses, and there is the workforce development and work training that is so important. There are ways in which we can invest in rebuilding crumbling schools and affordable housing and creating jobs at the same time. There is a whole lot we need to do, and we need to do it now. That is part of the crisis that is staring us in the face. Yet we are in morning business for another 2 hours this afternoon.

I just wanted to make it clear that—and I think I am speaking for other Democrats—we are not giving any ground on getting help to the aviation employees and others, and we are going to do it this week on this bill. We are not going to give any ground on safety, and we are going to pass this bill this week. We are also going to move on and get serious about an economic stimulus package as well.

I yield the floor.

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

Because of the unanimous consent agreement, I ask that the time continue to run on the motion to proceed because it is the same morning business we asked it to run against; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

RECESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 4:30 p.m. today with the time charged against the postclosure proceedings.

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:54 p.m., recessed until 4:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. JOHNSON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in his capacity as a Senator from South Dakota, notes the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, about a half hour ago, President Bush was in the Rose Garden for a ceremony. During the question-and-answer period, the President expressed some great concern—in my judgment, justifiable concern—about the leaking of classified information that was given to some Members of Congress. Apparently, at least a couple Members of Congress, on a couple of occasions, have leaked that information to the press.

In my judgment, the President has every right to be very upset about that. This country has asked its young men and women in military service to risk their lives in this time of national emergency. As they undertake military operations in parts of the world that are thousands and thousands of miles from here, it ill-serves our country's interests to have any Member of Congress, under any circumstance, at any time, going to a classified briefing and then disclosing the information from that classified briefing to a member of the press.

The solution, I might say, is not, however, for the administration to stop briefing the Congress about classified material. The solution, I would urge the President, would be for us to find out which Member of Congress has leaked classified information and then make certain that this Member of Congress—House or Senate—is not given classified information in the future.

I know this is a difficult area and a difficult set of circumstances, but this country faces some very difficult days ahead.

The September 11 terrorist attacks that were committed against this country changed almost everything. The need for security is quite evident to almost everyone in this country.

The terrorist attacks require this country to respond. The President had no choice. We cannot ignore those attacks. We had to respond to those attacks. And the President has the full support of the American people in his response, in my judgment, and certainly the full support of the Congress.

But I just want to say that the President was dead right this afternoon in