

struck America on September 11, 2001. We would like to extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to families of all civilians and rescue workers who lost their loved ones in the tragedy. May Allah bless them and give them courage during this time of grief and extreme sadness. We also pray for the steady and early recovery of individuals who suffered injuries as a result of the incident.

We would like you to know that although perpetrators of such heinous crimes more often than not justify these acts in the name of religion, we do not support their ideas. Islam for instance, condemns senseless acts of violence against fellow human beings. As the Qur'an so aptly states in Chapter 5, vs. 32, "For that cause we decreed for the children of Israel that whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind." All in all, Islam values human life and applauds its preservation rather than its destruction. It is a religion that preaches peace, love, justice and tolerance for people from all walks of life.

Moreover, we would like to clarify a misconception that many people harbor in their minds about Islam. Islam is not a religion that was founded by Prophet Muhammad rather, it is a continuation of the earlier Revelations that were made to Prophets Abraham (Ibrahim), David (Dawood), Moses (Musa) and Jesus (Issa) in the Torah and the Bible. Prophet Mohammed was the last Prophet though whom the Final Revelation was made—that Final Revelation is the Qur'an. On that note, please accept the enclosed copy of the Holy Qur'an as a token of our support.

I do have that and I have read part of that since having received it.

The letter goes on:

Finally, we would like to applaud the tireless rescue efforts that have been underway for the past few days and also pray for all those who are involved in this mission and wish them every success.

Signed by Aunali Khalfan, who is with the Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., based in Elmhurst, NY.

I believed it was appropriate to spread across the RECORD of this Senate this very thoughtful letter that I received hoping it will lead to a better understanding of this very fine religion which 6 million Americans follow, the teachings of Islam.

I ask unanimous consent—I see my friend from Alaska here—that I be allowed 10 more minutes to complete a statement on another subject.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Hearing no objection, the Senator from Nevada is recognized for 10 additional minutes.

SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week the Senate continued demonstrating its resolve to move forward in a bipartisan manner, following on the footsteps of the resolution allowing force, the \$40 billion for New York-related matters, moneys that were made available, and the airline bailout, costing billions of additional dollars, plus legislation which allowed relief for those people who were injured physically and

killed in that incident. Last week we moved even further; we passed a very strong aviation security bill and extremely tough antiterrorism legislation. I believe this sends a strong message to those who are watching our Nation's response to the attacks of September 11.

Everywhere I go—and I am sure it is the same with the President pro tempore and my friend from Alaska who is in the Chamber—people are amazed and appreciative of the bipartisanship that has been shown these past 5 weeks. People all over America—Nevada is no exception—hope we can maintain this bipartisanship and pass legislation that is good for this country.

If there is legislation that passes that is good, everyone can take credit for that, but if we do not pass legislation that is necessary for the well-being of this country, everyone rightfully has to take blame for that.

We as Democrats are working closely with the President to provide our military with the support it needs to fight this war against terrorism. We are working with our Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We are proceeding with the proper amount of caution and purpose, but we are meeting our obligation to complete our work in an orderly manner. I hope that can continue this week.

The reason I say that is we are voting at 5:30 p.m. today on something I think is totally unnecessary. We are trying to move forward and complete our appropriations bills. We have an extremely important piece of legislation. It is the foreign operations appropriations bill that funds our involvement in the world. It is one of the 13 appropriations bills. We were unable to move to that last week. We had to file a cloture motion on a motion to proceed to the legislation.

That is just wrong, and to the people who are causing us to go through these procedural hoops to get to this legislation, I have to say respectfully, it is not good for this country. Why are they not allowing us to go forward on this most important legislation? Because they say we are not approving enough judges.

Senator LEAHY, who is an outstanding Member of this Senate—there is not a better patriot anyplace in America than PAT LEAHY—working with the ranking member, ORRIN HATCH, has been working very hard. Antiterrorism legislation has taken up every spare minute they have had, but in spite of that, they also have been able to report out some judges.

Maybe it is not enough. I am willing to accept maybe it is not enough, but work with us and let's get some more done.

What we could have said was we were not going to have any more judges until you allowed us to go forward on these appropriations bills. We have not done that. Whenever judges are ready to move through the Senate, we approve them. We approved two last

week. More are going to be ready this week. We are going to approve those judges in spite of what I believe is a wrongheaded legislative tactic on behalf of some people in the minority.

We have to complete action on these annual appropriations bills. There is no more reassuring message we can send to the American people than to pass these bills.

Now, more than ever, people are turning to government, especially the Federal Government, for assurances that we are ready to respond to anything. Certainly we should be able to do the basic things this Government has to do every year; that is, pass these appropriations bills. Keeping our Government open and running can only be accomplished with the passage of these appropriations bills. To not act on these bills now is irresponsible. We are trying to be responsible.

The Presiding Officer is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. It is a distinct honor to be chairman of that Appropriations Committee, no question, but there is no one in the United States who has more knowledge of the legislative process than the President pro tempore. I cannot imagine how he must feel in that we are not able to move forward on these appropriations bills—held up over somebody thinking we are not approving enough judges.

The American people have a lot of problems on their minds right now, but I bet there are very few who are concerned about us not having more judges. I have yet to have anybody from Nevada say: Could you get us some more judges? And Nevada is the most rapidly growing State in the Nation. We have two judges who are in the pipeline. They are going to be approved, Mr. President. I am not worried about it.

My two friends are going to be judges: Mr. Hicks and Judge Mayhan. They are going to be approved. These people are not doing those two men any favors by holding up these appropriations bills.

Secretary Powell, Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary Thompson, and Attorney General Ashcroft are not worrying about whether there are enough judges. Some believe this is our way to get us some more judges.

Senator DASCHLE, the majority leader, and I have said on many occasions, this is not payback time as to the fact we did not get many judges. We are approving the judges as quickly as we can. I am sure there was more that could have been done in the Judiciary Committee. Maybe Senator LEAHY and Senator HATCH should have set aside some of the antiterrorism work they were doing and moved on some of these judges. As one of my children would say: Give us a break; we are doing our best. This is not good government. I hope we can move forward on at least a motion to proceed today so we can get this legislation out of the way.

I see my friend—as I have said a couple times today—from Alaska. I am

sure, if I know him, he is going to be talking about energy policy. There is not a chance we can do any energy legislation until we finish our appropriations bills. Senator DASCHLE has said he will at the earliest possible time move to energy, but we cannot do that until we finish our appropriations work. We have conferences we have to complete. We have bills we have to pass.

We have some complicated bills. We have the Defense appropriations bill, Labor-HHS. When they come to the floor, we cannot finish those in an hour. These are very difficult bills involving billions and billions of dollars. All we are saying to those who are holding this legislation up because of judges: Let us do our work.

We have matched circuit judges who were approved during the first Clinton administration. We can prove anything with statistics. They can prove anything with statistics; we can prove anything with statistics.

All I am saying is, as a matter of common sense, let us move forward on appropriations bills. There is a time and a place for everything. I do not think this is the time to hold up legislation because we are not moving enough judges. We are moving judges. As I said before, we are moving all the judges we can clear. We could have held those back, but we are not doing that. We are moving forward. This is not the time to horse trade on judges. This is the time to keep our Government open and running, not on a week-to-week basis, but get it done for the next year.

The public deserves to see stability and responsiveness from its elected leaders. Passing appropriations bills in an orderly manner sends just that message.

I hope we can move forward with other appropriations bills. We could finish foreign operations maybe tonight or tomorrow. Certainly we should move forward. We have to do an agricultural appropriations bill. We have many people coming from the heartland of this country who are extremely desperate to get a new agricultural bill. We cannot do that until we finish the appropriations bills.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, will the Senator from Nevada yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I will be happy to yield to my friend from North Dakota for a question.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Senator from Nevada talks about the importance of moving the appropriations bills. I observe the deadline for the appropriations bills was October 1. The deadline was October 1, and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the ranking member have done everything humanly possible to try to move these bills, and yet we discover we cannot even get past the motion to proceed on an appropriations bill, which is just unthinkable to me.

Is it not the case we had to break a filibuster on the motion to proceed not

just on appropriations bills but even on the aviation security bill and the bill before that?

This is not a time to be having filibusters on motions to proceed. Will the Senator from Nevada agree with that?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of the Senator from Nevada has expired.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent to have time to answer my friend's question.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. How much time?

Mr. REID. Two minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senator is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. REID. I also express my appreciation to my friend from Alaska for allowing me to proceed.

I say to my friend from North Dakota, the distinguished Senator, this is not the time to play legislative games. Yes, it is true that to move forward on airport security we had to break a filibuster. Hard to believe, but that is true.

I stated, before the Senator arrived, that I believe the majority has set an example of bipartisanship. Senator DASCHLE has gone out of his way to work with the President of the United States. They have developed a very fine relationship. They talk several times a day on this country's business. I think the very least we could do is move forward on the appropriations bills.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for one additional question?

Mr. REID. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. DORGAN. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, let me say there is no more bipartisan committee in the Congress than the Senate Appropriations Committee. These are Republicans and Democrats working together in a very significant way. It is completely bipartisan in its culture, and I am proud to be a part of that.

I am proud to be on the Appropriations Committee. It is just disappointing that the appropriations bills Senator BYRD and Senator STEVENS have helped us fashion can now not be brought to the floor because of people blocking the motion to proceed. That does not serve the Senate's interests, and it does not serve the country's interests. My hope is those who are blocking this will decide that they should step aside and allow us to do the Appropriations Committee's work. It is very important we do that. It is important for us, and it is certainly important for the country.

I appreciate the Senator from Nevada yielding.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

FIELD TESTS CONFIRM PRESENCE OF ANTHRAX

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will use some of my leader time. I think this is an appropriate time to inform

my colleagues about the events of the day, and I want to take just a couple of minutes to do so at this time.

At about 10:15 this morning, a member of my staff opened an envelope. It became clear from the very beginning that the envelope contained a suspicious substance. My office notified the Capitol Police and the Capitol physician, who responded almost instantaneously. The tests were taken immediately. They call them field tests. Two field tests were taken on the scene. Both tests confirmed the substance was anthrax. I say "confirmed" advisedly because a far more sophisticated test is underway. We will not have that information available for approximately 24 hours.

Based upon the preliminary tests, members of my staff most directly involved were tested and given an antibiotic. The office was quarantined, and all mail from our office was returned. I immediately contacted the other leaders to inform them of the incident.

The President happened to be calling at that point, and I informed him as well. I say the antibiotic is so effective it is 100-percent successful in killing the bacteria once that bacteria has been released. So we are supremely confident of our ability to deal with circumstances such as this.

I must compliment the Sergeant at Arms, the Capitol Police, and our Capitol physician for their extraordinary response, organizationally and medically. I am very grateful to all of those who have been involved so far.

The office has been quarantined and will not be open for several days as the office cleanup takes place. We have asked that all offices return all mail, and that is being done this afternoon. We will have meetings in our caucuses tomorrow wherein we will hear from the Sergeant at Arms, the Capitol Police, the Capitol physician, and others who will brief us about the specific ramifications of incidents such as this.

I will say, however—it is very important to me, and I have talked to Senator LOTT and to many of my colleagues—this Senate and this institution will not stop. We will not cease our business. We will continue to work.

I am confident we can put in place practices that will minimize the exposure to any danger our staff may have to endure. I am especially confident about our ability to respond as we have today.

So our work will continue. We will be in session tomorrow. I hope all offices will conduct their business as we would expect them to conduct it, with the exception of my office, until the inspection and the investigation and the cleanup can take place.

I also want to express my heartfelt sympathy to my staff for what they have had to endure. I have been in contact with many of the families of my staff throughout the day, and while this has been an extraordinary experience for each of them, I am proud of the way they have handled themselves.