

the Chair appoints Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BUNNING conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, will the Senator from Nevada yield?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield to my friend, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the notice of Members, the Senate Judiciary Committee had originally been scheduled to meet tomorrow for a markup. We have about 14 or 15 nominations on the list, ranging from U.S. attorneys to Federal judges—actually more than that. I forget the exact number. The Dirksen Building in which we were scheduled to meet is going to be closed, as will the Russell and Hart Buildings.

For those Senators who may have an interest, I am arranging for a meeting room off the Senate Chamber, probably in the President's room. We will start the meeting about halfway through the vote, whenever we have the vote, which I understand now is sometime between 12 and 12:30. I have talked to a number of Senators. This seems to be the most convenient way because we don't know where else we will get a meeting room.

Senators on the Judiciary Committee should plan, if they possibly can, to vote here relatively early, when the rollcall starts. Come to the room. We will make sure somebody is here to tell them where it is going to be. Obviously, if somebody wants to debate something, they can. We will try to move those nominations out as quickly as possible.

Having heard the travel plans of some Senators, we may try to get them moved out prior to or within the same amount of time as the rollcall vote. I urge Senators to get over there and make a quorum. As soon as we have a quorum, we will start moving.

For several Senators who have inquired, mostly from the other side of the aisle, who have judges up for nomination hearings tomorrow—I know the Senators from Alabama and Oklahoma and others do—we are going forward with those hearings. Senator SCHUMER, the distinguished senior Senator from New York, will be chairing. Again, I think we may have arranged a room right back here.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LEAHY. Yes.

Mr. REID. Even though all the office buildings where hearings are normally

held will be closed tomorrow, the committee is going to go ahead and find someplace to hold the hearing anyway; is that what the Senator from Vermont is saying?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am going to do that. I am trying to do it in a relatively compressed amount of time, while some Senators are still around. There are a lot of judges on that list. Two Senators from each State will want to introduce them, plus those that are on the agenda.

The distinguished majority leader has helped us in finding space in the Capitol to do it. We are also going to try to finish the terrorism bill, if we can. We are trying to juggle all that. I ask Senators to please show up on time when we start because there is going to be only so much of a window. If people don't show up, if we can't get a quorum, we can't go forward. I picked this time when everybody has to show up for a vote anyway, the best time to get a quorum, and we will go on with the others so that my staff and I can get back to finishing up the work of the terrorism bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, for the information of all colleagues, I know there has been some question about when we ought to have the vote tomorrow. To accommodate the most number of Senators, we are going to set the vote for 11 o'clock. That will be the only vote for the day, and it will be on the military construction appropriations conference report. We will accommodate Senators who wish to speak about other matters in morning business both before and after that vote.

The Senate will come in around 10 o'clock, and we will spend at least an hour in discussion on the conference report, or in morning business, and then we will set the vote for 11 o'clock.

The next vote will occur at approximately 10 o'clock on Tuesday. We will not be in session on Friday or Monday. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. REID. Will the leader yield?

Mr. DASCHLE. Yes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that on this side of the aisle Senator DORGAN worked very hard on a policy luncheon. The Senator is still going to have that, is that right?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, we are intending to have a Democratic policy luncheon at 12:30 tomorrow. Following the vote and other intervening morning business, Members on our side will be invited to the policy committee luncheon where we will be talking about a range of issues dealing with the Middle East.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I also made mention earlier today about making alternative space available for public meetings. I know some Senators

and some of our committees had hoped to be able to conduct their business, and because we are not going to be conducting business out of the three Senate buildings, we are acquiring other space for the next 2 days. Senators are encouraged to call the Secretary of the Senate or the Sergeant at Arms for information about that space. There will be rooms available. In fact, I can say we have already allocated a number of rooms, and they will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

We will be sure that every committee or every Senator who may seek additional space for whatever purpose can be accommodated. That will not be a problem. So I just encourage you to contact the Secretary of the Senate or the Sergeant at Arms and we will address that as well—I should also say the Rules Committee. Senator DODD has already been working on accommodating Senators and would also have space available. Please contact the Rules Committee as well and we will be able to take care of any needs Senators may have.

Mr. LEAHY. If the leader will yield—so I won't leave any question—I had a meeting and markup in the Judiciary at 12. If the vote is going to be at 11, we will start that meeting of the Judiciary Committee—I understand it will be in the President's room. It will probably start about 11:05, 11:10.

Again, I urge Senators to show up and make a quorum because I have talked to enough Republicans and Democrats and it is going to be hard to have a quorum much beyond the end of that vote. So, please, I urge Senators to be there at 11:05, 11:10. Vote in the beginning in the well and then come on in and we can get 12, 14, 15 nominations, ranging from U.S. attorneys to judges, out of there.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I want to tell our colleague, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we will make sure he has Members available for a quorum because we want to get many of these nominations reported out of committee. I appreciate his cooperation both in having the executive session to report those nominees and also in having the hearings tomorrow. I hope we will have many more in the remaining weeks. I thank him very much for his accommodation.

Mr. LEAHY. I appreciate that. If the Senator will yield for this comment, I assume the Capitol will stay open. God forbid it would not, because after that we will run out of rooms. But the distinguished majority leader and the Secretary of the Senate have helped us in getting rooms. Senator SCHUMER is delaying his departure to help move some of these. We will do our best.

Again, I urge everybody to be on time because the pressure is going to be on. We want to let a lot of the staff who won't otherwise have to be around have a chance to go home. I think their families need them at this time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I decided today is the day I want to speak to the Senate. Tomorrow I am going to submit a resolution, and then I want to make this resolution an amendment and have a vote on it at the first opportunity. The focus is on the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. It will be a resolution that will be constructive, positive, and outline some of the steps that this administration and we as a nation can take to make sure hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of people do not starve to death in Afghanistan.

The problem is twofold. The reports are that there are about 7.5 million people who will starve to death if we do not get food assistance to them. Some of the Afghan people are going to be able to get to refugee camps in Pakistan. The problem there is the conditions in the refugee camps. The conditions are deplorable, and we are going to have to do much more to make sure people are provided food assistance and some health care.

The second problem is the elderly, the infirm, and the poorest people of Afghanistan are not going to be able to leave. This needs to be discussed on the floor of the Senate, and the Senate needs to focus on this issue. I am also trying to get the administration to focus much more on this as well.

The truth of the matter is that the air drops that have been much discussed at best may help 1 percent, probably more like one-half of 1 percent of the people, many of whom are women and children.

We will not be able to get food to people unless we do it through truck convoys and deliver it to them directly. If we do not get the food to the people in Afghanistan—we are talking about the people who are the poorest of the poor of the world who had nothing to do with the terrorist attacks against the people in our country—if we do not get the food to them in the next 4 weeks, then we are going to see in Afghanistan a humanitarian crisis of unthinkable proportions. We are going to see many innocent people starve to death.

There are two problems. The first problem is this is not what we are about as a nation. It is inconsistent with our values to not make every effort possible to get the food to people and, second, it is a matter of our national interest because if, in fact, the people in the Near East and South Asia

associate or see a direct linkage between our military action and then large numbers of people starving to death in Afghanistan, it will only create a tremendous amount of bitterness and ill will. There is absolutely no question about it.

I have always said that the use of force is something we have to do. It should be directed at the people who committed this act of mass murder in our country. We should do everything we know how to make sure innocent people do not lose their lives.

The truth is, I worry about that, but there are going to be a lot more innocent people who lose their lives through starvation than probably through this bombing campaign. We could be talking about hundreds of thousands, some say millions, of people.

The resolution contains a number of items, but one I want to focus on—and I think we need to pay very close attention to—is what the NGOs, the non-governmental organizations, organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, tell us because these are the people who have been in the trenches. They know what it is like to try to deliver food assistance. They are saying we have to figure out a way that the military action, which some have called for an end to—that is not what I am calling for as a Senator. Others have argued what we have to do, at the very least, is coordinate the military action, the bombing, with the truck convoys; otherwise, the truck convoys will not go in because they could mistakenly be bombed.

I am not sure our Government would want them to go in because we do not want them mistakenly bombed. We have to figure out some way to have agreed-upon safe corridors where people who are delivering the food through truck convoys will be able to get the food to many people in Afghanistan who are suffering, the likes of which we would never want anybody we know or love to suffer.

I talk about this today because we have not had that much focus on it. I will have a resolution tomorrow. I will try to write a piece. I will try to talk about this as much as I can to people in the country. It would be a terrible mistake for our Government, for this administration—and I think we need more clarity from the administration about how we are going to get the food to the people in Afghanistan.

The President has talked about how children have committed money and clothes to the children of Afghanistan. That is fine and good, but the truth is that will not address this humanitarian crisis, nor will the air drops.

We have to make sure the people get the food. If we do not do this the right way, if we do not get this job done, if we do not deliver the food to people there, then there is going to be massive starvation. That is unacceptable. That is unacceptable.

I am quite sure there is no support from the Taliban. They are not helpful.

It is a complicated problem, but this should be a first priority of our policy right now when it comes to the United States of America and the role we play in Afghanistan, the role we play in the Near East, the role we play in South Asia, the role we play in the world.

We cannot let innocent people starve to death. We must make every effort to make sure that does not happen, and I think to date we have not made that kind of concerted effort.

The only other thing I want to do, because I know we are about to finish, is to thank the majority leader, the minority leader, the Presiding Officer, and Senators for making sure we continue with our work. It goes down on the record so I will just say it one time.

I am no big deal at all, but I am very lucky to be a Senator from Minnesota. I am a first-generation American. My father fled persecution from Ukraine, Russia. I do not think I can ever remember a day or a period of time when I have been more emotional when I look at the Capitol. I think the work of democracy should proceed. We do not always do it as well as we should, but the work of democracy should proceed. I am glad we are in session today. I am glad we are going to be in session tomorrow. I think it is important we do so.

My hopes and prayers go to all who have been exposed to anthrax. I feel within me people will be all right, but my hopes and prayers go to everyone.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before we go out, I wanted to take a minute. We started the day in the Senate by my talking about Senator DASCHLE, the majority leader, and the difficult situation in which he found himself when a number of his employees tested positive for anthrax.

As the day draws to a close, I want on behalf of the entire Senate to express our appreciation, the Senate's appreciation, for Senator DASCHLE and how he has handled the day. It has been a remarkable period of leadership.

I have been involved in government most all my adult life, but his performance—and I say that in a most positive way—has been just exemplary today in the briefing we held down on the first floor today, with all the Senators, with Senator DASCHLE leading that discussion, with all of the personnel of the Senate there assembled, and his actions in reminding us we are Senators, that we are leaders, and we should act