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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for the gift of imagination You have entrusted to us. With our imaginations You have enabled us to form, hold, and achieve images of what You can make possible. Coupled with the gifts of hope and expectation, You help us imagine Your best for us and our Nation.

Now at the beginning of this new week, we form and hold a positive picture of this Senate Chamber filled with Your presence. Knowing that we are accountable to You for every thought we think and word we speak, we contemplate how we should act and react under the guidance of Your Spirit. We hold the image of how You want us to relate to others as fellow Americans who also believe in You and want Your vision for our Nation. We sense the civility and greatness of character You want from us. Help us to express to others the same kindness, graciousness, and respect we have received from You.

So we renew our dedication to You. We are Your daughters and sons in Your eternal inclusive family. In loyalty to You, we commit ourselves to work together for Your glory and the good of our beloved Nation. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 10, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REID thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

In my capacity as Senator from Nevada, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. AKAKA assumed the chair.)

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.

MONITORING OF LOBBYISTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in this morning's paper I was stunned to read a headline but more stunned to read the story itself. It is in the Washington Post, titled "GOP Monitoring Lobbyists' Politics."

Among other things, the article says:

Republicans are researching the party affiliation and political contributions of hundreds of lobbyists in Washington, part of a campaign that could deny government access and prime lobbying jobs to Democrats. . . . Copies of the bulky dossier, being compiled . . . will be given to top White House officials. . . . Early drafts of the report are already in the hands of a few senior administration officials and lawmakers . . . The report, dubbed the K Street Project, has been evolving in fits and starts over the past few years, but has been expedited and expanded now that Republicans control the White House and Federal agencies. Several Republican lobbyists have complained that they aren't getting the access to Federal agencies they feel they deserve.

Republicans involved in the effort said they plan for it to be used by White House officials, lawmakers and staff to determine who can meet with party leaders in discussions of policy matters.

If there was ever anything that was immoral, wrong, and scandalous, this was it. To think that people who have jobs—you can pick any company you want—they hire somebody or they have worked for a number of years and they are going to check to see what party they belong to as to whether or not they can meet with a Federal agency, that is really bad. I do not think it is criminal, but I think it is on the verge of being criminal.

This sets a very dangerous precedent. This, in my opinion, is tantamount to McCarthyism. It involves the practice of compiling a new enemy's list to be circulated out of the administration and the Hill. Maybe we should include, rather than just McCarthy, Nixon. This appears to be something that would have happened during the Watergate years. Enemies are those who belong to or support the Democratic Party. They are targeted.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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President Bush, during the campaign, said he wanted to change the tone of things in Washington. The tone has not been changed. Someone should get to the President and say this has got to stop. I cannot imagine President Bush liking this. If he does, it speaks volumes.

Top White House officials have said he wanted to change the tone in Washington, but today we learn he is working in tandem with those keeping secret lists of people's personal activity for intimidation, professional retaliation, or maybe even character assassinations.

It is not enough they block access to all non-Republicans. The story indicates that the "chief aim is to prod trade associations, lobbying firms, and corporations to hire more Republicans to represent them in Washington."

It is somewhat ironic the party most opposed to affirmative action supports its application when it comes to hiring lobbyists. They support affirmative action when it comes to the hiring of Republican lobbyists but oppose it when it comes to helping a minority gain entry to college.

The person behind this secret list is a frequent adviser and a visitor to the President. His name is in this story. The President should pick up the phone, call his friend, and denounce it and tell him that President George W. Bush will not tolerate what amounts to Nixonian-McCarthyism.

I don't know this President as well as I know his father, but I guarantee the first President Bush would not condone this. I guarantee that. One thing about the previous President Bush, he was a very pragmatic man. This is so wrong. It is extraordinarily disappointing if the President is complicit in these secret lists, lists designed to suppress workers' liberties in order to protect special interests. This is a witch-hunt, tracking and documenting people's personal choices with invasive tactics to threaten and intimidate freedom in the workplace.

If you have someone who represents a company or a trade association, will they now, each time there is an election where there is a turnover, have to fire all Republicans or fire all Democrats until all the lobbyists are of the same party as the person who is President of the United States? I hope not.

We have lobbyists, advocates, and consultants talked about in this article. Does it mean that next they will go after researchers, maybe teachers, doctors, or lawyers? Or maybe people from Hawaii? Pick any group. Where will it end? Will the Republican lawmakers be told not to meet with Democratic constituents? For a party that defined itself during the cold war as the enemy of communism, their new playbook would be the envy of one of the Communist dictators. Every elected official, Republican and Democrat, should denounce this. This is wrong.

Every person should call upon the President, a lawmaker, and say, stop

this. Today's story about his supporters secretly compiling a new enemies list changes both the tone and the clock, but it changes it in the wrong direction. We do not want to turn the clock back to Nixonian-McCarthyism.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2600 AND H.R. 2143

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to read the two bills en bloc, and then I would object to any further proceedings at this time with respect to these measures.

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

The clerk will read the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2600) to ensure the continuing financial capacity of insurers to provide coverage for risk from terrorism.

A bill (H.R. 2143) to make repeal of the estate tax permanent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming, Mr. THOMAS, is recognized.

HOMELAND DEFENSE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to speak a little about an issue that is current: homeland defense. It is not new to be current. Of course, homeland defense has been a very high topic in all of our minds since September 11, and will continue to be, indeed, for a very long time. I think the war we are in requires a great commitment from all of us to continue to provide homeland defense and security and the new prospects for us. I think we are unaccustomed to that. I want to take a few minutes to talk about that, and particularly about the President's proposal.

I think there is no question that homeland defense has become one of our most important issues, and that, of course, is coupled with what we are doing overseas. There is also no question about the best method of homeland defense, partly because it is something we haven't done in the past. It is particularly difficult to develop, and it is hard to determine the best way to do it. It is a domestic activity about which we haven't had to be concerned,

particularly in the past, and we haven't dealt with it certainly to the extent we are now and which we must in the future.

I will admit—as you will probably detect—that I am not an expert on this at all. As a matter of fact, I am not on committees that are basically involved with it. But I am a bit disturbed about the reaction to the President's Cabinet-level plan he announced last week. The critics have been very vocal about not having a plan. We have been hearing that now for a number of months—that Tom Ridge has not been doing what we need to do; that he doesn't have the authority which we need to have for him to be able to accomplish what is going on here. Fairly high level criticism has been taking place. It is interesting. The critics for not having a plan are now just about as vocal about the plan the President has provided. I think that certainly is a strange kind of thing and one that is not helpful to accomplishing what we want to accomplish.

I think there is no question that a plan of this size and of this importance will be altered before it is put into place. I do not know of any plan this size that has come before the Congress that isn't changed, polished, and accommodated before it is finally agreed to. But the point is there has to be one to begin. I think it is really important that we deal with it now. It is there, and it is what the critics wanted. I don't know why they continue to criticize.

I am surprised and am a little dismayed that the media has continued to use this proposal as a way to create controversy. I guess the media's job—whatever the issue is—is to pick on that part which is reflected on by a minority of the people who have been critical rather than a majority. Indeed, 72 percent, according to the polls, are favorable. It is kind of interesting that this moves their way, and I guess that is the media's way of doing things.

One of the complaints is that the plan came out overnight—it came out very quickly. I think that is not the case. Tom Ridge did an interview the other day in which he indicated that he has been in place now for quite some time and has not, of course, been a Cabinet member. He has not had anything but his own office to handle. But he has been working on this for a long time, including a lot of people. The idea that it came out overnight from people in the President's little group is not the case. There has been a great deal of talk about it within the administration and a great number of ideas as to how this might best be done, as I think it should be. I think it would be sort of ridiculous to be talking about something publicly before it comes out. That is why it came out now, and that is why this is the time to talk about it publicly.

I must confess I get a little impatient sometimes with the way these things are handled. It is easier to sit up in the