

There have been seven separate hearings in the Senate alone in addition to the hearings that are being held in the House of Representatives.

We have had attendance at the policy lunches to be briefed on both sides of the aisle by Ambassador Bremer. The President has given two national addresses that relate to this supplemental request.

I mention this because I have said I would schedule adequate time for consideration. It requires a lot of participation over the course of this time. Probably over 70 Members are participating in those particular hearings that are being held this week.

I think it is important to have us come to the floor so we can have a full debate and debate amendments on the floor as well.

That will be the goal for next week. Again, because at the end of next week we will go on a recess for greater than a week, I believe it is important to respond to the emergency requests by the President of the United States, our Commander in Chief, in a timely way. That means this week and next week.

AMBASSADOR BREMER

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wanted to comment on Ambassador Bremer briefly.

I asked Ambassador Paul Bremer to come back and to participate in the hearings this week. He has really gone nonstop.

I express my deep appreciation for his presence every day—both in formal meetings, informal meetings, and hearings. He is the U.S. administrator of Iraq and head of the coalition of provisional authority.

Early last summer, Ambassador Bremer, who had already retired from government service, was asked by the President of the United States, on very short notice, to move to Iraq and to lead the coalition effort to stabilize the country; indeed, he volunteered to do so.

We all listen to him, and in listening to his testimony, we all realize what a daunting task he has. Iraq has been ruled by a vicious dictator for decades, the economy has deteriorated, as we all know, to near pre-industrial levels, the population is scarred by the ravages of this dictatorship, the Saddam Hussein regime, and now we have the foreign terrorists who on a daily basis seem to be sneaking in the country, adding to the disorder and death.

Through all this, Ambassador Bremer continues to lead. He does that in spite of personally being under constant threat of attack and even constant threat of assassination in that part of the world. Like many of our fine service men and women, he has left loved ones behind and is living in what we all know are tough conditions in Iraq to serve the United States of America.

Ambassador Bremer may set a record this week for the number of committees before which he is testifying.

There are at least 6 congressional committees over 5 days, in addition to speaking informally to our policy luncheons. He is a public servant in the truest sense of the word, a great man serving our Nation.

As we debate the appropriate policies in Iraq, I want everyone to remember that he and others, military and civilian, are sacrificing for us in Iraq. I know we will have our differences. I encourage all of our colleagues to be respectful of each other as we move forward and as we recognize the great, unselfish leadership of Ambassador Bremer.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senator from New Mexico wants to speak regarding the Chaplain. I will finish in a minute.

While the majority leader is on the floor, I say to the distinguished majority leader, the reason I stepped off the floor is I got a call from one of our Jewish Senators indicating they were speaking for a number of other Senators of that faith. They not only have to, as I indicated, be home in time for the sundown services but also have to prepare meals and things of that nature. They wanted me to let you know, if there is some way we could meet the burdensome schedule we have tonight, it would sure be good for them because they have a lot of things to do other than be home by sundown.

I also say, while the majority leader is here—I am speaking for me—I want to do everything I can—and I think I can fairly speak for the Democratic caucus—to move this very important supplemental. Senator BYRD and others are extremely concerned, for example, about having the hearing on Monday. The distinguished President pro tempore has heard from Senator BYRD himself. He would rather have that on Tuesday and rather have some other witnesses.

We want to do everything we can to be fair and responsible and move this along. However, remember, the House is not going to mark up their legislation until the week we are gone.

The leader is right, we should do everything we can to move this along, but I don't want anyone thinking that Democratic Senators who have some concern about the large amount of this number, especially the reconstruction, are in any way trying to hold this up. We want to cooperate in any way we can.

Now, speaking only for this Senator, I think it may be to the advantage of the Senate to take this over and do whatever debate we need next week but not complete it until we get back. I have complimented the distinguished majority leader on a number of occasions since the Senator has taken over the Senate. We have had very few needs to file cloture on your side. We have tried to be as cooperative as possible. For example, without entering into unanimous consent agreements we simply have told you we will finish a bill on a certain night and generally we

have been able to live up to that. We are not trying in any way to slow down or stall this most important legislation, but there is not a question of running out of money tomorrow, the next day, or the next day. I don't think it would hurt until we got back to have some final time to complete this.

That is coming from this Senator, not the caucus. I am sure the Democratic leader will be in touch early in the day. We had a number of meetings yesterday to talk about this most important subject.

For the third time today, we want it understood we on this side are going to do everything we can to support the troops. There are serious questions about the reconstruction money and how we should handle that. I don't think anyone disputes the fact they need reconstruction money. I think we need to take a close look at that.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I respect what the assistant Democratic leader has put forward. I am not making accusations of stalling or obstruction at all. I do feel it is important as we turn on our television sets every morning or read the paper and we see the importance of the security in Iraq that we address the issue which has been brought by our leaders on the ground there, the security issues and the request for the supplemental, as expeditiously as possible and not delay unnecessarily. That is why from a leadership position I want to focus this body on that security issue and spend whatever time it takes right now to address that issue.

I understand we are working in good faith as we go forward. My intention is to continue to address thoroughly, with plenty of debate, maybe an unprecedented number of hearings in a short period of time, by most significant people, and to allow adequate time for floor debate. If we can keep working together, it is my goal to dispose of this appropriately over the next 9 days before we go on recess. I am going to have a hard time leaving the Senate to go on recess and not addressing a Presidential request.

The House of Representatives is staying here. They are not going on recess. They are going to be addressing it in early October. That is why at least from a schedule standpoint I want to do it as soon as possible.

Mr. REID. If I could just say this, the other problem we have is we do not want to have to go through this twice. Under the procedures of the Senate, when we just have a Senate bill, we are limited very much because points of order will be raised on most everything we do relative to amendments. I ask the distinguished majority leader to understand we do not need to go through this twice because when the bill comes back over from the House, we do not need to go through the same amendment procedure again.

I am not sure we gain anything by trying to complete this by next week. We would be well served to see what

the House gives us and work through that. That way there can be amendments that can be offered without points of order being issued to those. Otherwise, we are stuck offering amendments, points of order, then coming back with the House bill and doing the same thing again.

I see the distinguished Democratic leader on the floor and I certainly will not speak anymore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I see the Senator from New Mexico is ready to speak, as well, and I will be brief.

We had a caucus last night, and I don't know that I can recall ever having witnessed the depth of anger and deep-seated frustration expressed by all of our membership as a result of the scheduling decisions made with regard to the supplemental next week. It started with the decision that may have been necessary but made last week with regard to calling Ambassador Bremer to a hearing on Monday, the very day the hearing was scheduled in the afternoon. No Senators were notified ahead of time. Senators had very little time to prepare. Very few Senators could attend because they were out of town. Many expressed the view that this was orchestrated in a way to minimize the amount of scrutiny and attention Mr. Bremer would receive.

Throughout the week, similar experiences have been noted. And now we have a markup on Monday, when, again, Senators have made travel plans and the real prospect for a good attendance is minimal at best.

The frustration, the anger, the venting that I witnessed, and that most people felt, was as palpable as any caucus I can recall holding in the 9 years I have been leader. I have not had the opportunity—I just tried to call the majority leader, and I will talk to him in private in, hopefully, a couple minutes, but I would ask that we reconsider holding that markup on Monday. I would ask that in the name of comity, but also in the name of just ensuring that there be an opportunity to do this right, it be postponed until Tuesday. I think we would actually accelerate the prospects of completing the work.

I will guarantee you, there will be very little prospect for comity and accommodation as we go through this already very vexing and controversial supplemental request by the administration—in order for the Senate to complete its work, it is going to take cooperation. But when our caucus feels as jammed as they do, as shut out as they are, it will be very difficult to reach some degree of procedural accommodation. So I will tell you that this matter needs more thought. I would hope we could have more consultation. But I will say, unless some-

thing changes, this is going to be exceedingly difficult.

So I only put the Senate on notice. And, again, as I said, I attempted to call the majority leader prior to the time I came to the Senate floor to impress upon him privately the same message I am sharing with our colleagues in this public way. We will have more to say about it later. But this matter has generated far greater anxiety and anger than virtually anything I have seen in a long time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I note the Senator from New Mexico wants to comment on the guest Chaplain and he has to be at a funeral.

We will talk privately. We have not had the opportunity to talk since their caucus, so we can handle our discussion privately and then come back to the floor.

Again, my goal is simply to address this request in a manner where both sides are heard. We have done our very best this week to schedule it in terms of the hearings, and we have talked further about that.

I do ask you to consider—because how much time we spend in hearings or in markups or on the floor does not matter to me as much as having people heard over a period of time—if the markup were delayed, will the Democratic side at least consider finishing this before we go out on our recess, given the fact that this is an emergency request from the President of the United States? We can, whenever it comes to the floor, start early, work late; if it is Monday morning, coming in, or Tuesday, or as soon as you would say, "Well, the markup is OK," so we could finish this before we go out on vacation or recess when we have this emergency request here. Can we finish it next week?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, again, I would respond to the distinguished majority leader in several ways.

First of all, the Ambassador, in speaking to our caucus on Tuesday, noted he does not need this money until January. Now obviously one could make the case that there really is not any rush to do this in September.

I would also say the House has not acted. Until the House acts—and they are not going to act until next week—many of my colleagues wonder what the rush is. If we are denied the right to offer amendments, there are those who could make a point of order that many of the amendments we will be offering involve legislating on appropriations because of the germaneness questions. And if that becomes an issue, then I doubt very much that there will be any way we can finish next week.

As I think I heard the distinguished assistant Democratic leader note, this bill will come back, and we will have to have a second debate when the House bill comes to the Senate if points of

order are raised on the amendments, denying us the opportunity to have this debate in the first place.

So I guess my answer to the distinguished majority leader would be threefold: No. 1, will we have an opportunity to offer the amendments without points of order being raised against them? No. 2, when will the markup actually occur? And if it does occur on Monday, I fear there could be some procedural delays involved in bringing the bill up. No. 3, we need to have a clear understanding of just when this legislation needs to be passed to accommodate the schedule Ambassador Bremer noted to our caucus. If we do not need to finish this until January, that is another matter. So some clarification with regard to the urgency of this issue also needs to be provided.

I certainly will work with the majority leader as we follow through with these questions.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me turn to the Senator from New Mexico. I know he has a comment on the guest Chaplain, as well as other comments.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, could I make a unanimous consent request prior to the Senator from New Mexico beginning?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time used by the Senator from New Mexico not be counted against the morning business time of the Republicans, and that the full 30 minutes be granted to each side due to this late start.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, first of all, might I say to my friends on the other side, I came with the intention of speaking about the guest Chaplain, who is from New Mexico. But I want to note we have an important event, a funeral for a 27-year-old son of one of our staffers from the Energy Committee at 10:15, so I will not be able to come back during that Republican time. So I would ask if I can—

Mr. REID. That was my request. You have it right now.

Mr. DOMENICI. I wonder if I could just give my speech on the guest Chaplain and also my other comments now.

Mr. REID. That is what I asked in my unanimous consent request.

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

COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, first, might I say, as I note your presence in the chair—and you are also the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, about which we are talking this morning—I compliment you. I have not seen