

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY
LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the announcements regarding the schedule of the distinguished majority leader. I simply say that I think the debate on homeland security this week has been a good one. I credit the chairman, as well as our ranking member, Senator BYRD, for the vigorous debate we have had on a number of issues relating to homeland security. We still have a number of amendments left to be resolved today, and I expect it will take a good part of the day before we are able to finish.

I can also appreciate the majority leader's desire to get as much work done prior to the August recess as possible, and his desire to move to other appropriations bills is understandable. However, I must say—and I have said privately and publicly—that his decision to wait until next week to begin and then finish the Energy bill leaves open the possibility that we will not finish, unless he is prepared to stay longer than next Friday. We have 382 amendments. That is about 77 amendments a day. I know some of those amendments will melt away, as oftentimes happens. But we have not seen the electricity title.

I am told there are other portions of the bill that are being revised as we speak. Senators cannot even offer amendments to those portions of the bill because they have not seen the draft. So it presents some logistical as well as really substantive questions and problems that, unfortunately, complicate the schedule even more and the majority leader's understandable desire to finish.

So I just warn my colleagues that, as much as I would like to see an Energy bill passed, we have a lot of concerns and some misgivings about the current bill. We hope we can address the renewable portfolio standard, the conservation issues, and a whole array of issues that have yet to be resolved. We have not been able to do that. So we are rolling the dice, in a way, and gambling, in a sense, that we can somehow accommodate all of these questions, all of this debate, and these very serious issues in a matter of a couple of days. I do not know how one does that. Obviously, it is certainly the majority leader's right to make these decisions so long as we all are aware of the challenges it presents and the complications to completion it would anticipate.

I again warn my colleagues and certainly in a most sincere way express a desire to complete the work, but we have to have time to do that. We do not have, in my view, adequate time with that schedule to complete the work on the Energy bill, as much as we would like to do that.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

I also note the majority leader talked to another issue we have been dis-

cussing on and off for a long time. I believe it is 48 days since we made the effort initially to reinstate the tax credit that was eliminated when the tax bill was signed into law for those whose incomes fall below \$26,000. There are 12 million children—200,000 children of military families—who were intentionally left out of the legislation the majority leader referenced a moment ago. That has troubled us.

We have attempted on several occasions to reinstate that tax credit for those millions of families left out. We had a motion to proceed a couple of weeks ago, and we have indicated that we will continue to ask unanimous consent to ensure we have an opportunity, once more, to send as clear a message about the unfairness, the inequity, the extraordinary insult this represents to those families who are even, I would argue, more deserving of a tax credit than families with higher incomes.

So far our efforts have been unsuccessful because of the opposition expressed by our colleagues on the other side. But we will continue every day to find a way to see if this matter can be resolved prior to the time we leave for the August recess.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

I again renew the request. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1434; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. This is the Lincoln-Snowe child tax credit bill for those working Americans who will not get checks this week and which we have attempted to address now for several weeks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will be objecting, let me say to my good friend, the Democratic leader, that discussions continue between the two chairmen of Ways and Means in the House and Finance in the Senate. We are still optimistic that we will be able to move forward on something related to this matter in the near future. But in the meantime, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the optimistic forecast of the distinguished assistant Republican leader. I will say, we have heard this now for some 48 days. The House leaves tomorrow, and they will have left without addressing this issue. So as checks are received for millions of families whose incomes exceed \$26,000, all of those 12 million kids whose incomes are below \$26,000 are going to be left empty-handed, in part because of objections, in part because of intransigence on the other side, in part simply because, by design, they were left out when this bill was written several months ago.

It is unfortunate but, as I say, we will continue to draw this matter to

the attention of our colleagues, continue to find a way to resolve this so that some measure of equity can be provided, especially with regard to families who need it the most.

Mr. President, I know there are some Democratic Senators wishing to come to the Chamber soon to offer amendments. I understand we have morning business until 10 o'clock. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, if there is no one wishing to speak, I wish to make a short comment.

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

Mr. STEVENS. I know the order is for time on the other side. I ask to use about 5 or 7 minutes.

LEWIS & CLARK AND THE
REVEALING OF AMERICA EXHIBIT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this is the time of year when Senators have visitors from home. I know many come to my office and ask me personally, "What should I see in Washington now?"

Last evening, I visited the opening of the Lewis and Clark exhibit, "Lewis & Clark and the Revealing of America." It is at the Library of Congress from July 24 to November 29.

I have asked that a copy of the booklet that is being given out at this exhibit be placed on every Senator's desk. I do hope that will happen. I congratulate the Congressional Caucus on the Bicentennial of Lewis and Clark: Senators CONRAD BURNS, LARRY CRAIG, BYRON DORGAN, and Representatives DOUG BEREUTER and EARL POMEROY.

As one goes into the exhibit in the Library of Congress, the first thing one will see is the 1507 Waldseemuller world map. This is the first map that used the word "America" in the history of the world. Beyond that, there are a series of maps that lead up to the information that President Jefferson had when he dispatched Lewis and Clark to make their historic journey.

The interesting point about this is that for years, the maps of our part of the world were really kept classified by the Spanish, and it took a German geographer, Alexander von Humboldt, when he visited Mexico City and got access to the archives of Mexico to disclose to the world the maps that had been prepared prior to that time.

Copies of each of those maps is on exhibit at the Library of Congress. It takes us through the total exploration of Lewis and Clark but subsequent explorations of the American West, the Louisiana Purchase, and the total history of our country west of the Mississippi. It is told through maps and through artifacts that have been gathered not only to tell us the geography of our area, but really the dress of Americans at that time, the plants—a total description of the West as it was known then.

What is interesting is that the German geographer who had visited Mexico City actually visited with President

Jefferson prior to the time Lewis and Clark set off, as I said. The information he brought to the public, to the world at that time is just staggering.

I have seen a lot of exhibits at the Library of Congress in my day, and I have the honor to be the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Library. I believe this is an exhibition that should be called to the attention of every one of our visitors as they come into our offices.

I call to the attention of the Senate also that there is a film program that is going to go on starting Friday, July 25. There will be a series of films shown at the James Madison Building, which is part of the Library of Congress. These films are free and open to the public but require advance notice and reservations to get in. The seating is limited.

They are amazing historic films. It starts off with a 1955 Paramount film which is entitled "The Far Horizons" and continues through until November 21. The schedules are shown in the booklet. This is the kind of information I think Senators would be extremely wise to point out to their visitors. All they have to do to make reservations is call the number that is shown in this booklet, and they can have reservations for one of the finest historic films that one could think of. Each Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, between now and November 21, there will be films shown to the public.

I do congratulate the Library of Congress, Dr. Billington and his staff, for putting together this enormous exhibition of the history of our American West. I do hope everyone has an opportunity to take the time to see it. It is not something one can just go in and make a 5-minute visit and look at a map. If they go through that door, they are going to be trapped for at least 30 to 45 minutes, or hours. It is one of the most staggering exhibits I have seen.

At one point, through our electronic means, they have the ability to show the actual outline of our Nation and put it up against the maps that were prepared back in the days before any digital concepts, before any real capability for surveying. It is amazing how close they came to preparing maps that were accurate, and this started off 500 years ago.

This is 500 years of history of the American West, and people can see it in a half hour or 2 hours. I do hope Senators will take the occasion to look at the booklet I have asked the Library of Congress to provide us. Copies of this chart are available to every Senator to put in their office so they can tell their visitors about this amazing exhibition.

In closing, I thank the Senate for the time, and particularly my friends on the other side of the aisle for letting me use some of their time, to speak about this exhibit. This is the work product of not only the Library of Congress, but they give credit to the Bicentennial Congressional Caucus, which is cochaired by my good friend

from Montana. He will find an enormous number of photographs and history of his great State where I had the privilege of going to college for a short period of time. I want him to know this is a memory trip for me to go through this exhibition. I do thank him for his work, and I thank the other Senators for their courtesy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I put a footnote on this. I recommend the Lewis and Clark exhibit. It is wonderful history. Of course, the Louisiana Purchase is of great interest to all of us in the West. I recommend a book I am about two-thirds of the way through. It is called "The Wilderness So Immense." It is the history of how we purchased all that land from France when Jefferson was ambassador to France. It goes back to 1785 and 1786, and also the politics involved with Spain. It involves the navigation of the Mississippi River, the control of New Orleans and, of course, Spain's influence in the great American southwest that led to the Louisiana Purchase. I recommend that book. It is written by Jon Kukla, and it gives a great insight on what happened.

I thank the Senator for mentioning this great 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are now 15 minutes under the control of the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, or her designee.

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I yield up to 10 minutes to the Senator from Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized for up to 10 minutes.

THE GOOD NEWS IN IRAQ

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, this morning we have been through a series of briefings with regard to Iraq. It amazes me, as we hear some of the rhetoric that is coming out of this town and, of course, across the waves, and I wish to bring to the attention of those who missed it, it was a very good briefing put on by Ambassador Bremer of what is happening in Iraq after the armed conflict is over, but which continues today on a guerrilla basis, and report to the American people that all the press we get is sort of on the negative side, but there are some very positive signs.

I hasten back to the start of our country. The path to democracy is a very rocky path. Sometimes it is very slow and sometimes it is very dangerous, but there are things being done now, and the best ambassadors I have found on the ground in Iraq are our uniformed troops.

If one can imagine a people who have been under the tyranny of Saddam Hussein for the last 25 years being told how evil this great army could be, that

they would either cut out their tongues or they would kill them, and then have one of our soldiers or marines in combat gear and helmet, dirty, sandy, and grimy, walk up to a young Iraqi person with a smile and offer a hand of friendship in the form of water or some food, but mostly the hand of friendship, they are making great strides in winning the hearts of the Iraqi people and helping them to establish a free and open government for their own freedom and prosperity.

Right now, we are not hearing these kinds of figures: 85 percent of the cities and towns in Iraq now have elected councils in place and working. There was a strategy after the conflict was over, but No. 1 was security. We cannot do a thing in Iraq, and neither can the Iraqi people do for themselves, until it is secure so they will feel safe.

The building of central services, electrical power, water, sewer, all of these amenities that make life easy for us, are not in place. Saddam Hussein never paid a lot of attention to that. He rationed electrical power, water, all the services we take for granted in America. He limited them in order to suppress, and he got to pick and choose who were afforded those kinds of amenities or those central services we find so necessary in our own towns, villages, counties, and States.

We are making progress. We are now reconfiguring our military presence there. We are also doing something about the economy. How does one move state-owned enterprises into the private sector to provide some economic thrust for job and economic opportunity for the Iraqi people? That framework is in place, and it is being carried out.

How do we train a militia or a police force for the Iraqi people, headed by Iraqi people, and an armed forces for Iraq who answer not to a military tyrant but to a civilian government patterned somewhat like our own? That, too, is being put in place, and they are being trained by our forces.

We have around 30 to 40 coalition forces from different countries represented in Iraq right now. There are 12 top contributors, of which the U.S., the U.K., Spain, Norway, and others are all participating in this endeavor.

I advise the American people to look at the positive side of establishing a civil and free government in Iraq. We are building a new irrigation system and repairing old systems because the infrastructure has dwindled away. It has almost been destroyed—not by war but by use and wear. These folks need to be able to feed themselves.

We have agriculturists in the field, nongovernmental organizations in the field working in health care and agriculture and services vital to the Iraqi people to put this country back together and make it a democracy that will be the shining example of the Middle East.

We cannot lose our resolve. The Founders of this country did not lose