

authorizing portion of the bill, we got only 14 Democrats to join us, and then someone on that side had the audacity to say it was the Republicans' fault we didn't pass it. That is less than one-third of the Democrats who voted in favor of it. Yet the steady stream of Senators who come down here to speechify on energy is from the other side. They are Democrats. Some of the Democrats down here on the Senate floor yesterday wringing their hands about gasoline prices, blaming the administration yesterday, are the same Senators who voted against the Energy bill last week.

Last summer we had the biggest blackout in the Nation's history during the August recess. You all remember that. When Congress returned, Senators went to the Senate floor to make speeches, to wring their hands about the problem in our power grid. Some of those same Senators turned around a few weeks later and voted against an energy bill that mandated electricity reliability. Everyone who knows anything says that must be adopted if we are to rearrange things and have power over the utility lines so we will not have blackouts. It is recommended by everyone who knows anything about it, and we sit here and fail to pass the bill that contains it.

Gasoline prices have shattered all records in April. Prices could reach \$3 by late September. I know that is a startling statement, but I make it because I believe it. Prices could reach \$3 a gallon by late summer. Natural gas prices on average are 70 percent higher than last year. Our electricity grid is every bit as vulnerable to a blackout today as last summer, and we stand here making speeches and passing the blame: Blame OPEC, blame the President.

The buck stops here. It is up to this Congress to pass a bill that stabilizes the price of oil, gas, coal, and natural gas. It is up to this Congress to pass a bill that increases our production of energy from natural gas, wind, solar, geothermal, and clean coal. It is up to this Congress to mandate electricity reliability. Let's stop politicking on this energy bill and on this energy problem. Let's stop looking to foreign shores to solve our problems. Let's stop looking to OPEC so they would have the will. Let us unify and resolve that lack of enthusiasm and unity. Let's roll up our sleeves and pass an energy bill.

It is possible. The bill before us now contains about half the Energy bill. It has all the tax credits that will bring much of the energy that I have spoken about on board America. It will not do the whole job, but it will do something. We understand there are Senators who do not want to see that pass. It has broad support and it will do something significant. I trust we will pass it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, how much time is remaining on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 18 minutes remaining on Republican side.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I rise in support of S. Con. Res. 99, condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its participation and complicity in the attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan.

I commend my fellow cosponsors of this resolution for taking this essential first step in addressing the dual crises in Sudan. We must condemn the Government of Sudan for its complicity in the human rights abuses and their gross failure to put an end to the current genocide.

In addition to the gross human rights violations, we now face a humanitarian disaster. Over a million people are displaced and well over a hundred thousand have fled over the border to Chad.

The Government of Sudan is only making matters more difficult by resisting, delaying, frustrating the work of humanitarian assistance groups, and the situation gets worse. Roads in the region are only accessible to the most sturdy of jeeps and trucks, and once the rainy season starts in just a couple of weeks, those roads will be wiped out, cutting off aid altogether. The clock is ticking. We certainly cannot control Mother Nature, so the world must act now.

I believe there are a few essentials that we should do immediately. First, the United States must push the United Nations Security Council to authorize a stability and support operation under chapter VII to help stop the atrocities and help distribute humanitarian aid. I would also like to see an expansion of the civilian protection monitoring teams into the Darfur region. The Government of Sudan has had long enough time to stop the killing and facilitate the flow of aid. With the rainy season coming, we cannot tell the people of Darfur to give their government more time to comply.

This may sound as if it is a radical step, but this step is needed. We should not be, and do not want to be, in the situation 6 months or a year or 2 years from now where we look back and say we should have taken this step—oh, if we only would have sent this U.N. force in; if we only would have sent these troops in we could have saved hundreds of thousands of lives—because that is the situation we are going to be in. We are going to look back and say, if we only would have acted, if the world only would have acted, these lives could have been saved. Why didn't we act? That is what has to take place. That, clearly, is what should take place.

Second, I believe Congress should amend the Sudan Peace Act to require improvements in Darfur. We have the ability here in Congress to do that.

Third, the United States should target sanctions against any members of

the Sudanese Government found to be involved in these atrocities. We have done it in regard to other individuals in other governments in other countries. We should do it in regard to these individuals. We should make it very clear to them they will be held accountable.

Finally, the international community must act now. We need a special session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission to appoint a special rapporteur for Sudan. The international community should also consider a special tribunal to investigate the atrocities.

These steps form a broad outline of what must be done. We must work together with the administration in the coming days to iron out the details so we can move forward. The crisis is here, it is now, and this is what we must do. Clearly, this is a case of genocide, and the international community must face its moral responsibility to act.

CRISIS IN HAITI

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, let me turn to another area in the world where there is another humanitarian crisis, and that is the country of Haiti. I will be very brief because I have come to the Senate floor many times before to talk about Haiti.

Haitian Prime Minister Latortue was on Capitol Hill yesterday. I had the opportunity to meet with him. The majority leader and the Democratic leader met with him, as well as other Senators. The Prime Minister is a very impressive man. He is a man who faces a very difficult task in Haiti. The U.S. troops are scheduled to leave June 1 to be replaced with U.N. troops.

I will not try to summarize the message from the Prime Minister, but two things he said were very important which I will share with my colleagues. First, the Prime Minister made a very strong case to the Members of the Senate whom he talked to for the passage of a bill Senator DODD and I have introduced in the Senate, a bill that, according to the Prime Minister, within a relatively short period of time would help create an additional 100,000 jobs in Haiti, 100,000 jobs that are desperately needed.

This is a trade bill Senator DODD and I have introduced that is pending in the Senate. It has bipartisan support. There is a companion bill introduced by Congressman CLAY SHAW in the House of Representatives. I again call my colleagues' attention to this bill and hope we can act on this bill this year. It is a bill that would restore the assembly jobs in Haiti. Haiti at one time had many assembly jobs. After the sanctions were imposed during the Clinton administration, these jobs basically went away. This bill will help restore these jobs. It will make a big difference for Haiti.

The other point the Prime Minister made was the Haitian Government today is in desperate need of cash.

They cannot even do little things such as get the electricity back on. I have talked to Mr. Noriega in our administration. I have talked to Secretary Colin Powell. Both are very sympathetic to what is going on in Haiti and the needs of the Haitian Government. Secretary Powell has assured me the administration is trying to reprogram money and to get additional money for Haiti. Everyone agrees and understands the urgent need for this money.

I simply say to the administration, this money is desperately needed now. The new Haitian Government is struggling. They need to show the people of Haiti some immediate victories. If the people of Haiti are to have some confidence in this new Government, if they are to believe in this new Government, if they are to have confidence in the new Government, they have to see something tangible and they have to see it fairly quickly.

I hope our administration will be able to reprogram some money, will be able to set some money aside and get that money to Haiti so this new Government will be able to show the people of Haiti some good faith, be able to show them some victories, and the people of Haiti will be able to see there is, in fact, some hope.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. How much time do I have on this side in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 8 minutes remaining.

THE PRICE OF OBSTRUCTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I believe many in the press world and too many outside the beltway are observing the gridlock in the Senate and probably just dismissing it as "politics as usual."

The truth is, it is not politics as usual. It is politics at its worst. The result is Americans are getting the worst, the very worst from the Senate, when they deserve the best.

With gridlock jamming our Nation's highways, we get gridlock on the highway bill right here in the Senate. With our Nation's energy supply uncertain, the fate of the Energy bill in the Senate is equally uncertain. With a work-based welfare system doing wonders across America, we see no work allowed on welfare reform in the Senate. As backlogged as courtrooms are with lawsuits, so, too, is the Senate backlogged with sensible tort reform. As emergency room patients wait for a doctor's care, so, too, do emergency room doctors wait for medical lawsuit reform from the Senate.

Gridlock, uncertainty, inaction, backlog, and delay; that is all the Senate is serving up these days. Gridlock, uncertainty, inaction, backlog, and delay is all that is on the menu in the Senate these days.

There is a price for obstruction. It is real. It is painful and it is rising. Let me give a few examples.

For decades, now, congestion has been rising. According to the committee report on the highway bill, the extra time needed for a rush-hour commute has tripled over the past two decades. The resulting congestion costs every man, woman, and child in the United States \$520 a year. About a billion gallons of gasoline are wasted every 2 months on U.S. roads.

Yet this highway bill we have could create hundreds of thousands of jobs in the next few years. This highway bill is being prevented from being written, right here in the Senate. This highway bill, which would prevent almost half a million accidents, save almost 2,000 lives over the next two decades, this bill is stalled on an open road to nowhere.

Why? Because of Democratic obstruction. The House version and Senate version of the bill are blocked by Democrats from going to conference to resolve our differences. It is the way we legislate in the Congress.

With gas prices rising this year, with wide-scale electrical blackouts last year, and with Middle East tensions every year, the Energy bill is again stalled, going well into its third year of delay. But a bill that will, according to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, create 650,000 new jobs, that will boost the economy and secure our energy supplies, is blocked by Democratic filibusters.

Do we have to have another blackout before we are permitted to act? Do we have to have total shutdown of our freeways before the highway bill will be freed?

The price of obstruction is real. It is rising. And there appears to be little relief in sight in our roads, at our pumps, in our courtrooms, our emergency rooms, and our employment offices across America, all due to obstruction by Democrats.

I yield the floor and 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. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, how much time is left on the majority side in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the majority side there are 2 minutes 49 seconds remaining.

Mr. REID. Will the Chair notify me when that time has expired?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, is the time for the Democrats to begin now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thirty seconds remain on the majority side.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, when time comes for the Democrats, I ask

unanimous consent that Senator KOHL be recognized for 5 minutes, Senator FEINGOLD be recognized for 8 minutes, Senator KENNEDY for 5 minutes, Senator LEAHY for 5 minutes, and Senator CORZINE for 5 minutes. I further ask that the time remaining on this side, which I understand would be 17 minutes—is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. REID. I will yield myself such time as I may consume. If I get up to 15 minutes, I would ask the Chair to advise me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired on the majority side.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Democrats' time be allocated as I have indicated.

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

The Senator from Nevada.

HOLDING UP THE FSC BILL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I want everyone to listen. I know the best defense is good offense. That was learned long before I used those words. But that is what we have going on here today. We now have and have worked all week on a bill that is extremely important to this country. We refer to it as FSC. It is a tax bill that deals with corporate America.

As we speak, corporate America is being assessed penalties as a result of trade sanctions that have been placed on them by the World Trade Organization. We are trying to work our way out of that, and we are very close to being able to pass a bill. But the majority, as they do all the time, will not let us finish the bill.

Do you know what is holding up the FSC bill? Because the slow walk started last night. Four amendments. Four amendments: One by Senator FEINGOLD, which basically says we should buy American products. He wants 5 minutes. Senator CANTWELL wants to extend unemployment benefits, 30 minutes; Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG wants corporations that have foreign subsidiaries not to do business with terrorist countries. It does not sound too outlandish to me. Senator CORZINE wants to impose 301 actions, which basically is called super 301, which simply says the President has to enforce our trade laws.

Those are the four amendments, taking a total of an hour and 35 minutes, the majority will not let us go forward with on this bill. That is it, an hour and 35 minutes. Tough votes by some. I don't know why it would be hard to vote "buy America" or extend unemployment benefits or say foreign subsidiaries should not do business with terrorist organizations or countries, and enforce our trade laws. That is what they are.

But now we will hear the speeches: The Democrats are not allowing us to go forward with this most important—