

The amendments we know of that remain—one by the distinguished Senator from South Carolina. At this time I would like to set the hour of 2:30 to consider that. Is that agreeable?

We simply bring it up at 2:30 and we determine how it unfolds with regard to second degrees.

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator from Massachusetts is ready to proceed with his amendment.

Mr. WARNER. There is no objection to that.

Mr. LEVIN. Senator AKAKA needs 5 minutes—have you gone through this?

Mr. WARNER. What I am trying to get at the moment is the amendments, and then we will try to splice in periods of time for our colleagues to speak to other matters on the bill.

Mr. LEVIN. We are hopeful we can complete the drafting of an Iraq amendment in the next half hour which, if we succeed, we would want to show it to the Senator from Virginia, but it may take some real time this afternoon.

Mr. WARNER. Fine. Let's deal with the known quantities.

The Senator from Massachusetts wishes to bring up an amendment which is within the 12 amendments of the Senator from Michigan. That is to be taken up now. We will proceed with that. There may well be an amendment in the second degree; I cannot anticipate that.

Mr. LEVIN. If I could ask the Senator to yield, the Senator from Minnesota has an amendment or needs morning business?

Mr. DAYTON. To speak on two amendments already included in the managers' package.

Mr. WARNER. We will try and package, for the moment, two items. The Senator from Massachusetts will now proceed on his amendment. We cannot predict how long it will take because we do not know of the potential for second degrees. That will take place under the underlying unanimous consent. At 2:30 we take up the amendment of the Senator from South Carolina and proceed on that.

Mr. LEVIN. With a second-degree amendment expected on that.

Mr. WARNER. So let us get those two locked in for the moment.

Mr. LEVIN. Excuse me. We made reference to two other Senators within that period of time. Senator AKAKA would get 5 minutes for morning business, and I want to make sure the Senator from Minnesota, within that same time period, will have 10 minutes that relates to the pending amendments, as I understand the Senator.

Mr. DAYTON. Amendments to the bill that are in the managers' package.

Mr. WARNER. And Senator BURR needs 5 minutes.

Within that period of time we will accommodate the three colleagues for the matters they wish.

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

Mr. WARNER. Further, I wish to inform Senators that the likelihood of

any votes between, say, the hour of 12:45 and 2 o'clock is most unlikely. As a matter of fact, I ask unanimous consent there be no votes during that period of time to accommodate a number of Senators on both sides.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Does the Senator expect the possibility of a vote before 12:45?

Mr. WARNER. No.

Mr. LEVIN. So it is unlikely between now and when?

Mr. WARNER. 2:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. I understand the Senator from Hawaii wants to speak for 5 minutes. I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Hawaii be recognized for 5 minutes and I be recognized at the conclusion.

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

The Senator from Hawaii.

VETERANS DAY 2005

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague, Senator KERRY, for the time.

Tomorrow is Veterans Day. I pause this morning and join my fellow Americans in paying homage to those who served in this Nation's Armed Forces.

Observance of this day is a wonderful tradition that allows all Americans to reflect upon the sacrifices made by our veterans in protecting our freedoms and liberties. This Veterans Day is especially poignant during this time of conflict.

Our current battles abroad are a constant reminder of the ordeals our soldiers of this war and past wars endured on behalf of this great Nation. I commend the many soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines on Active Duty, and the National Guard and the Reserves, and their families for their service to our country. Our support of our service members must be steadfast and strong.

Veterans Day has a long and important history. In 1911—at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month—an armistice was signed between the Allied nations and Germany, effectively ending World War I, then hoped to be "the war to end all wars". In November of 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 the first commemoration of Armistice Day.

This great day was initially celebrated in honor of those veterans who fought in World War I.

It was not until 1954 that Congress, at the urging of veterans service organizations, renamed Armistice Day as Veterans Day to extend the commemoration to all those who have so honorably served this Nation.

Although we pause today to commemorate the service of those who served on behalf of this grateful Nation, we must make certain that this day has meaning and is not merely set aside for fanfare and speeches. Indeed,

we must make certain that our veterans have our commitment and support every day and not just Veterans Day.

Too often our veterans' priorities are not our own. As we saw earlier this year, VA had a tremendous funding shortfall.

It took some too long to acknowledge what so many of us had known for some time—that VA health care was not being funded at an adequate level—a level commensurate with the sacrifice that our veterans made on the beaches of Normandy, the harbors of Hawaii, the jungles of Vietnam, and the deserts of the Middle East.

I am pleased that VA has announced that it is suspending its planned review of 72,000 post traumatic stress disorder claims. This is surely great news for all veterans because many times VA compensation is the sole source of income for a veteran and his family.

We must put into practice daily the sentiment that Abraham Lincoln expressed when he said during his second inaugural address that we should—and I quote the President—

care for him who shall have borne the battle

and for his widow and for his orphan.

Our 25 million living veterans are the backbone of this Nation.

Today, I want to personally express my gratitude to all veterans of our Armed Forces and thank them for their service.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

AMENDMENT NO. 2507

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] proposes an amendment numbered 2507.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require reports on clandestine facilities for the detention of individuals captured in the global war on terrorism)

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. REPORTS ON CLANDESTINE DETENTION FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS CAPTURED IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

(a) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than sixty days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a detailed report on the knowledge of the Secretary, and of the personnel of the Department of Defense, on whether or not there exists, or has existed, any clandestine facility outside of United States territory for the detention of individuals captured in the global

war on terrorism, whether operated by the United States Government or at the request of the United States Government.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Whether or not the Secretary or any personnel of the Department of Defense have affirmative knowledge that a facility described in paragraph (1) exists.

(B) If the Secretary or any such personnel have affirmative knowledge that such a facility does exist—

(i) the existence of such facility;

(ii) any support provided by the Department of Defense to any other department, agency, or element of the United States Government, or any foreign government, for the establishment, operation, or maintenance of such facility;

(iii) the amount of funds obligated or expended by the Department in furtherance of the establishment, operation, or maintenance of such facility;

(iv) whether the Department has transported individuals captured in the global war on terrorism to or from such facility, and if so—

(I) the number of such individuals;

(II) the date of transfer of each such individual to such facility;

(III) the place from which each such individual was so transferred; and

(IV) the identity of the agency or authority in whose custody each such individual was held before such transfer.

(v) whether any detainee in such facility is expected to be prosecuted by military commission or another system for administering justice; and

(vi) the interrogation procedures used on each individual detained in such facility.

(C) Whether or not the Department has ever held any individual captured in the global war on terrorism at a facility controlled by the Department at the request of, or in cooperation with, another department, agency, or element of the United States Government, and for any such individual so held, a detailed description of the circumstances surrounding the detention of such individual and the disposition, if any of such individual.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in classified form.

(b) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall provide to each member of the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a detailed report setting forth the nature and cost of, and otherwise providing a full accounting on, any clandestine prison or detention facility currently or formerly operated by the United States Government, regardless of location, where detainees in the global war on terrorism are or were being held.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The reports required by paragraph (1) shall set forth, for each prison or facility covered by such report, the following:

(A) The location and size of such prison or facility.

(B) If such prison or facility is no longer being operated by the United States Government, the disposition of such prison or facility.

(C) The number of detainees currently held or formerly held, as the case may be, at such prison or facility.

(D) Any plans for the ultimate disposition of any detainees currently held at such prison or facility.

(E) A description of the interrogation procedures used or formerly used on detainees at such prison or facility.

(3) FORM OF REPORTS.—The reports required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in classified form.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator HARRY REID of Nevada and Senator BIDEN be added as cosponsors of the amendment.

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

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, in recent weeks the American people and Members of the Senate have heard allegations about the existence of secret prisons on facilities operated by the U.S. Government in various countries around the world.

Now, I know many of my colleagues take this matter very seriously. The Central Intelligence Agency has reportedly requested a Justice Department investigation of how classified intelligence information made its way into print. Clearly, the revelation of the potential of these programs is a serious national security matter. It is one we can all agree on, no matter where we sit.

No one in this Chamber underestimates the seriousness of the war on radical Islamic terrorists. It is a war we have to win, we must win. And no one underestimates the depravity and the viciousness of our enemies. We do not need to look any further than the bombings last night in Jordan to once again be reminded of the kind of enemy we face—an enemy willing to always target the innocent. We know that success in any war requires the informed consent of the American people. And in an issue as sensitive as this, that informed consent can only be derived from the Congress's full and appropriate understanding and involvement in these issues. That in and of itself requires information and cooperation from the administration so we in Congress can provide effective and informed oversight. That begins by knowing what the money we authorize and appropriate is being used to do. The American people demand no less than that. The fact is, we are not aware; we are not as a Congress performing that proper oversight. The vast majority of us first heard about the possibility of clandestine detention facilities in the Washington Post last Wednesday.

Since then, we have heard that this may have been discussed by Vice President CHENEY in a meeting with the Republican caucus. That obviously comes from statements by people at the caucus made publicly. If, as has been reported by Senator LOTT, members of the Republican caucus can hear about these facilities from the Vice President of the United States, then the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence ought to be able to receive a full accounting.

So the amendment I offer today seeks to simply assert, appropriately,

congressional oversight in this matter by requiring two classified reports—one by the Secretary of Defense and one by the Director of National Intelligence—to the appropriate committees, detailing the involvement of the Department of Defense and the intelligence community in these activities if, indeed, there is any.

Not later than 60 days after enactment, the Secretary of Defense will provide a classified report to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees of any knowledge or participation in the operation of clandestine facilities by the Department of Defense, including support provided by the Department of Defense to any other part of the U.S. Government or foreign government. The Secretary of Defense must also report on whether the Department has transported any individuals to or from such a facility, and whether detainees in such facilities are to be tried by military commission. Finally, this report will include details about detainees held at DOD facilities for other Government agencies.

The second classified report required by this amendment is from the Director of National Intelligence to the Intelligence Committees of both the House and the Senate. In it, the Director will provide a detailed accounting of the nature, cost, and operation of any clandestine prison or detention facility operated by the U.S. Government, regardless of location, where detainees from the global war on terror are being or have been held.

Now, let me be clear: We are not passing judgment on the merit or the value of these facilities. What we are saying is we need to know and understand what the policy of our country is, what is being done with taxpayer money, and what are the appropriate accounting and oversight mechanisms with respect to this.

In its reporting, the Washington Post said:

The CIA and the White House, citing national security concerns and the value of the program, have dissuaded Congress from demanding that the agency answer questions in open testimony [about the facilities].

My colleagues will note that both of these reports would be classified, both of them would be limited to the committees of jurisdiction. This is not about open testimony. It is about Congress doing its appropriate job through the appropriate committees.

I do not have any doubt that in the American public's mind we are all united and determined to win the war against radical Islamic terrorists. But I do know that any administration that tries to keep Congress in the dark ultimately winds up damaging the very effort we are engaged in. We have seen this all through history. This goes back for years in the relationship of oversight by the Congress and efforts by administrations to undertake clandestine initiatives on their own.

The executive branch cannot win this by itself. It needs Congress to be invested. It needs Congress to be knowledgeable. It needs Congress to act on behalf of the American people. And in this case, the simple job of oversight is critical to our ability to maintain the consensus necessary for our Nation. We have seen too often too many instances of efforts that go awry that cost us leverage as a nation, cost us leverage with other communities, and ultimately may even cost us lives of Americans because they do go awry without the proper consent.

We also do better as a country in these kinds of efforts when Members of both parties across the aisle have joined together in a foreign policy that represents the broad consensus of the American people and where all of us are accepting responsibility for our actions.

I would hope my colleagues, the distinguished chairman and ranking member, would accept this amendment because I think it acts in the best interests of this institution and of our Nation.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the Senator from Massachusetts provided us a copy of his amendment just a minute before he began his remarks to the Senate. Senator ROBERTS, on this side, is now in consultation with the ranking member, Senator ROCKEFELLER, and I anticipate that one or both will shortly come to the floor on this issue. At this time 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. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call not be charged to the time of either the proponent of the amendment or those who will be giving a different perspective, perhaps, in opposition.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. BURR pertaining to the introduction of S. 1990 and S. 1991 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. DAYTON. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise to thank the distinguished chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the ranking member, who are two of the finest public servants I have ever had the privilege of knowing, for their leadership of that committee on which I serve and for their leadership on this important legislation before the Senate, which I support. I also thank them for including two of my amendments in the bill, the first of which is a sense-of-the-Senate resolution, which I am proud to coauthor with Senator MURRAY of Washington and Senator COLLINS of Maine, that says the Department of Defense must honor its promise to pay reenlistment bonuses to members of the Army National Guard. I was told yesterday that the Pentagon has reversed its position and has now approved the National Guard's payment of those promised reenlistment bonuses.

My second amendment authorizes an additional \$50 million for childcare for Active-Duty military families and an additional \$10 million for family assistance centers. The committee bill already provided for increased funding for these two vital programs, and I thank the chairman and ranking member for agreeing to these further authorizations which parallel the increased funding that I added to the Senate's 2006 Defense appropriations bill.

Our military families are facing increased pressures as husbands and wives are deployed in faraway war zones and thus separated from their families for up to 18 months at a time. The Office of the Secretary of Defense has reported that some 38,000 children of Active-Duty families are being denied childcare in military facilities due to the lack of funding for the centers and for the spaces needed. This imposes an unfair additional hardship on these wonderful American families. The extended absence of a parent is compounded by the lack of available, reliable childcare. For the same reasons of extended absences, emotional and financial stresses, and the understandable need for support, the military family assistance centers are more important now than ever. They are especially valuable for the families of Reserve and Guard men and women whose wife or husband is called to active duty and then deployed in adjusting to extended absences and then readjusting to the spouses return or, in the worst case, to the spouse's not returning home alive, or returning home seri-

ously wounded or maimed for life. When we talk about supporting our troops, which all of us truly want to do, two very important ways are through childcare and family assistance services.

I wanted to take this opportunity to address briefly a related area, one vital to our national security. Last week the Washington Post reported that the CIA is operating secret prisons in up to eight other countries, including one in a former Soviet gulag in eastern Europe. These are so-called "black sites" where reportedly the CIA's "enhanced interrogation techniques," some of which are prohibited by U.N. convention or U.S. military law—in other words, torture—are being used against unidentified subjects for indefinite periods of time. They are reportedly being denied lawyers or any opportunity to defend themselves against whatever charges of wrongdoing have brought them there.

At the same time, the Vice President has reportedly given "one of the most impassioned pitches he has ever delivered" to Republican Senators at last week's caucus lunch opposing the McCain amendment, which passed the Senate by a vote of 90 to 9, that would prohibit the use of torture against detainees. The President has reportedly threatened to veto the entire 2006 Defense appropriations bill if it contains the McCain amendment. The Vice President was reportedly urging that the prohibition against torture be stricken, or at least an exception be given to the CIA.

Now we know why the President and the Vice President are so adamantly opposed to the Senate's ban on the use of torture or want an exemption for the CIA. It is because the CIA is operating secret prisons in other countries where torture is allegedly being used. Why else would they be against prohibiting torture, if they weren't doing it or intending to do it?

In response to the Post story, Republican congressional leaders sent a letter to the chairmen of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees requesting them to "immediately initiate a joint investigation into the possible release of classified information to the media alleging that the United States Government may be detaining and interrogating terrorists at undisclosed locations abroad. As you know, if accurate, such an egregious disclosure could have long-term and far-reaching damaging and dangerous consequences, and would imperil our efforts to protect the American people and our homeland from terrorist attacks."

Well, with all due respect, I say that the Republican leaders have the right idea but the wrong focus. There ought to be a congressional investigation, but it ought to be on the existence of those secret prisons, on who is being held there, why, for how long, and how are they being treated, whether torture is being used, and why these "black

sites" are being hidden from Congress. I know my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KERRY, has just proposed an amendment to this legislation that would require disclosure of these secret sites.

I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor of his amendment.

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

Mr. DAYTON. The oversight responsibilities of Congress have tragically been emasculated by this administration, and too many Members of Congress have acquiesced. They have bowed to this administration's wishes or demands that it be able to do whatever it wants, wherever it wants, and to whomever it wants. And then, if they are caught doing it, they say it is part of the war against terror, or that it is essential to our national security.

You don't defeat terror with terror. You don't stop those inhuman beings who would commit atrocities by committing atrocities against them. And you don't make our citizens more secure by taking away other people's brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers to secret gulags and torturing them for months or years. Of those torture victims themselves, if you release them, does anyone suppose that they will not be filled with hatred and revenge towards the United States? After they have been tortured, you keep them secretly locked up forever so they can't torture Americans in return?

These are not only hideous, horrible, and inhuman practices, they are stupid policies, shortsighted, misguided, and immoral policies which, if not illegal, should be, and which, to use the CIA's term, will blow back or boomerang against our own citizens in the years ahead.

Yes, there should be a congressional investigation into how unelected people with no accountability to the American people or to the civilized world can usurp the powers and responsibilities which are this Congress's by law, and why this Congress has let them get away with it and continues to look the other way while they blacken America's great name, debase our good values, and endanger our national security with their depravity.

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. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded and that I be allowed to speak for 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, as Veterans Day approaches, we pay homage to the soldiers who once stormed the beaches of Normandy, reclaimed the mountains of Korea and crossed the

sands of Kuwait. We pay homage to our veterans' sacrifice and courage, and also to the brave men and women who now follow their example in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

In paying respect, we must also follow through on our Nation's commitment's to ensure our veterans receive the benefits they earned and deserve.

Arkansas has a long and distinguished record of service, one that my State is proud of, and one that we will continue to build upon. In addition to honorable service by our active duty soldiers, marines, seamen and airmen, the Arkansas National Guard has mobilized more than 8,000 of its guardsmen since Sept. 11, 2001. In fact, this Veterans Day is an especially poignant one for families in Rogers, AR where 180 guardsmen have just been deployed to serve in Iraq.

Arkansas is not alone in its commitment to military service. Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, there are 393,000 new veterans to care for, including 103,000 who are currently seeking health care from VA hospitals.

We can never truly repay our veterans for their service to our Nation, but we can care for them just as they cared for us. In honor of these men and women, Senator NORM COLEMAN and I have introduced the Veterans Benefits Outreach Act to help ensure that all veterans collect the benefits they have earned but for whatever reason are not receiving.

Nearly 600,000 veterans nationwide are not receiving the benefits they are entitled to, often due to a simple lack of knowledge that they are eligible.

Instead of veterans having to cut through bureaucracy to learn about and receive the various benefits they earn, our bill seeks to bring this information to them. It requires the VA to prepare a plan to identify veterans who are not enrolled in programs they are eligible for and an action plan to enroll them.

This measure represents an opportunity to help our current veterans and meet the challenges we foresee instead of waiting until benefit problems escalate for a new generation of veterans. I hope this Veterans Day will add the necessary momentum for the full Senate to consider and pass this measure.

We owe this to veterans like Chaplain—Colonel—David McLemore—a soldier's soldier who has dedicated a career to providing outreach to service men and women in the field.

Chaplain McLemore is a native Arkansan and has served as a chaplain in the Arkansas Army National Guard for 21 years. During that time he has served soldiers at the company, battery, battalion, and brigade level. He has personally answered the call to duty in two wars, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

In both of these conflicts, Chaplain McLemore served on the front lines with combat units, where he ministered to soldiers conducting the day-to-day fight with the enemy. Chaplain

McLemore always chose to be up front providing a "Ministry of Presence" to those in the greatest place of danger.

Those who served in combat with Chaplain McLemore knew that he would always be there with a listening ear, an open heart, and a guiding hand. His mere presence gave courage and inspiration to those who knew that they could lose their lives at any minute.

As any chaplain, Chaplain McLemore did not carry a weapon as he faced the perils of combat, but the soldiers he served with knew that he carried more firepower than any of them, the grace and word of God, and they always wanted Chaplain McLemore and that firepower with them.

They knew that he risked his life every day for one mission, to serve them. In the simple but strong bond of combat, it was clear that Chaplain McLemore loved his fellow soldiers and they loved him.

Two months after his return from Operation Iraqi Freedom II, Chaplain McLemore was involved in a motorcycle accident where he sustained severe injuries. Today, he fights to recover from those injuries in the Veterans Administration Hospital in North Little Rock, AR.

As he does, he has the prayers, respect, and encouragement from us and all of his fellow soldiers. We honor him today for his commitment and selfless service to God, his country, and his fellow soldiers. Thank you, Chaplain David McLemore. God Bless and God speed.

We owe all our veterans not only our gratitude, but also our freedoms and American way of life. Our military has kept us safe for a long time. We cannot thank them enough, but we can begin to repay their sacrifices by providing them with the resources they need in the field and the support they have earned when they return home.

Mr. President, 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. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. McCONNELL. Under the previous order, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of conference report to accompany H.R. 3057, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. I further ask that there now be 5 minutes of debate, and that following the next vote on the Defense authorization bill the Senate proceed to a vote on adoption of the conference report with no intervening action or debate.