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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Therman E. Evans of Morning Star Community Christian Center in Linden, NJ.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, You are the one who created the universe. You are the one who established the life-sustaining ecological order of nature and the life being biological order of humans. You are the one who provides for all—the Sun, the soil, the atmosphere, the water, and the nourishment that results therefrom. And for all of this we say, "Thank You."

You save us from destruction. You support us through difficulty. You sustain us to meet challenges. You strengthen us where we are weak. You steady us when we are shaky. You shake us when we need to be awakened. You stimulate us when we need to be active. And for all of this we say, "Thank You."

Bless now, in a special way and inspire as never before, these our political leaders. Give them Your wisdom, Your peace, Your humility, Your kindness, Your love, Your righteousness, and Your faith as they continue to do the work they have been called to do. And for this opportunity You have given them to bless this wonderful Nation, we say, "Thank You and amen."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from New Jersey to speak for a moment at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from New Mexico for this courtesy.

I am extraordinarily proud to have the friendship, the moral support, and the leadership of Dr. Therman Evans, who opened our session today with a prayer. This is an individual who is a true man for all seasons—a physician, a minister, an entrepreneur, a chief of a village in Ghana—an extraordinary man who is leading his flock and ministering in a ministry of wholeness, one that deals with the complete aspect of a human being's life and sets a tone

and a message for the community in Linden, NJ, and much more broadly across New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He is truly a unique and wonderful individual. We welcome him.

I am truly honored to call Dr. Therman Evans my friend.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

LESSENING DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first, I rise to express my appreciation to Senator CANTWELL for the issue she has brought before the Senate. I am so convinced that the 40 percent can be met in 20 years. When President Kennedy said, We need to go to the Moon, he did not set a formula how we would get to the Moon, but we got to the Moon. When we were in the depths of our Depression in 1932, President Roosevelt said, We need to get out of this. We went a number of steps forward, some steps back, but we were able to work our way out of the Great Depression.

Senator CANTWELL's amendment is visionary. I really do believe that we can do this. I know there are people concerned, well, does this mean CAFE standards? Does this mean we are going to go totally to biomass? Are we

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



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going to do it all with alternative energy? I do not know, but the great genius of America can figure out a way to do this.

We need to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. There is no question about that. Fifty-eight percent of the oil we use comes from foreign countries. Listening to the news this morning, the stock market just moved a little bit yesterday. Why did it not move more? Because the price of oil went up almost a dollar a barrel. We have to do better than that. The only way we can do it is to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

Unless we have a directive of this President and Presidents that follow him to meet this goal, we will continue to be dependent on foreign oil.

So I am totally impressed with the Senator from Washington and the great work she has done on this amendment. I hope it passes by a large margin.

FUNERAL OF FORMER SENATOR EXON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the time I have is leader time, and I wanted to say a few things. I was not here yesterday afternoon because of the funeral of Senator Exon. I say to my colleagues, those of us who went to that funeral were so impressed with what this man did for the State of Nebraska. For the first time in the history of Nebraska, a funeral was held in the State capitol. Why? Because Jim Exon made a difference in the State of Nebraska. I am sure all 100 Senators, as I have, ask are we making a difference in what happens in our States, in our country. The lesson we can look to is Jim Exon, a man with not a great education by modern-day standards but a person who by modern-day standards, or any standard, had a great heart and a great mind and was able to do wonderful work for the State and for the country.

His family expressed so many warm feelings about their father and grandfather. Bob Kerrey gave one of the most moving eulogies that has ever been given. I am sorry I was not here yesterday, but for those of us who went to that funeral—Senator BEN NELSON, Senator HAGEL, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator LEVIN, Senator AKAKA—it was so worth our time.

JOHN BOLTON NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to respond to a statement that was made yesterday. I want to provide an update on the status of the Bolton nomination. As I said yesterday, and I say now, we on this side of the aisle have been clear and consistent on our position on this matter. If the administration works in good faith to give the Senate the information it requires, Senate Democrats are ready immediately to give this nomination a vote.

We are not going on a fishing expedition in this instance. Democrats are seeking clearly defined and specific in-

formation about two very important issues that bear directly on John Bolton's fitness to represent this great country in the United Nations. I know what a fishing expedition is. A fishing expedition is, for example, in the law when one does a deposition or sends interrogatories and they have no idea what the answers are going to be, they have no idea what information they are really seeking to obtain, they hope something will turn up. That is not the case here because we have given two important areas where we want information: Did Mr. Bolton attempt to exaggerate what Congress and the American people would be told about Syria's alleged weapons of mass destruction capabilities? Secondly, did Mr. Bolton use or maybe perhaps misuse highly classified intelligence intercepts to spy on bureaucratic rivals who disagreed with his views or for other inappropriate purposes?

At the time I made those remarks, sadly, the administration and Senate Republicans had taken the position for the past month or more that nothing needed to be provided to the Senate on either of these issues, nothing. Last evening, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, my friend, Senator ROBERTS, came to the floor to announce that he had attempted, "one last good-faith effort to alleviate Senate Democrats' concerns."

These questions were not directed to a member of the Intelligence Committee or to a member of the Armed Services Committee. These questions that we have asked were directed to the White House, to this administration.

Let us take a look, though, at Senator ROBERTS' efforts. First, it completely ignored one of the two issues on which we are seeking further clarification; namely, whether Bolton attempted to exaggerate what Congress and the American people would be told about Syria's alleged weapons of mass destruction capabilities.

I remind my colleagues, this is no small matter. All over the news the last 2 days has been concerns about weapons of mass destruction by virtue of the memo that was discovered in England. Concerns about this administration hyping intelligence and Great Britain hyping intelligence cannot be dismissed lightly.

U.S. troops are fighting in Iraq today largely because this administration told the Congress and the American people that Iraq not only possessed stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction but was also capable of using them against us and our allies.

U.S. troops are fighting in Iraq today. In the last 48 hours, 11 American soldiers have been killed. During that same period of time, I do not know the exact count, but well over 100 Iraqis have been killed. During that same 48-hour period, I do not know how many American soldiers have been grievously injured. I have no idea how many Iraqis have been paralyzed, blinded, or lost limbs. It is serious.

But we have learned since the war that the administration's own investigator concluded Iraq did not possess either the stockpiles or the means of delivery. Just as importantly, there are a series of unanswered questions about whether senior officials in this administration dramatically and intentionally hyped this threat to justify their desire to invade Iraq. So one can see why we believe it is no small matter for us to learn whether Mr. Bolton was a party to other efforts to hype intelligence.

Let's be clear about what is happening in Washington and the Senate. We have a White House that continues to drive an agenda—some say it is a radical agenda—determined to consolidate power and abuse it when necessary to push its unpopular policies. This disagreement over the Bolton nomination is not about partisan politics, ideology, or even reform at the United Nations. It is about whether we permit this administration yet again to walk roughshod over the Constitution.

Our duty as Senators is to ensure that our country is represented by qualified and, yes, ethical individuals. Instead of joining the Senate to protect and respect the Constitution, the administration has decided to pick a fight with large rhetoric and negative attacks as it consecrates its power and continues its secretive approach to governing.

Instead of joining us in a bipartisan conversation to reform Social Security, the administration pursues a risky privatization scheme that will slash benefits and threaten our economy with massive new debt. Public support for this privatization scheme is around the 20-percent mark.

This administration has also acquiesced to its radical rightwing base and supported the intrusion of the Federal Government into the private lives of families.

Just as troubling as all of this might be, when the administration fails to get what they want, they rev up the negative attack machine and set up the slash and burn, and I can say that is certainly true.

This pattern could not be clearer, and the American people are joining us to say enough is enough. For months now we have been talking about reforming Washington and focusing on the issues that affect the lives of the American people. We have been trying to do that as Democrats. Our work on the Energy bill this week is an example of what can be done with bipartisan work. We have a bipartisan bill that we hope to continue to improve.

Senator DOMENICI and Senator BINGAMAN have been exemplary in the work that they have done. We want to improve the bill. That is what legislation is all about. Americans are tired of getting caught in the crossfire of partisan sniping. So let us continue to join in a commonsense center and do the work the American people sent us to do.