

in the Nevada State legislature and led this very large church.

So when Dr. Church came to run the church, we were all anticipating the tremendously large shoes he had to fill. And it is easy for me to say that he has done it with distinction, honor, and class.

Dr. Church is a native of New Orleans, LA, where he earned a bachelor of science degree from Southern University. He later earned his master of divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA, and received his doctor of ministry from Oxford University.

Serving in the ministry for more than 20 years, this young man, Dr. Church, has been a guest speaker at countless churches around the world. He has ministered in India, Nigeria, the Bahamas.

He is leading the revival and growth of the Zion United Methodist Church. He hosts a daycare center servicing working parents in the Las Vegas area. He has established a remarkable youth ministry, the purpose of which is to get young adults involved in the church and the community. That has been successful.

He is also a loving husband to his wife Angela, and a loving father to his three sons, Daniel, Ephraim, and Immanuel. They are with us today.

I commend Dr. Church for his leadership and wish him well in his ministry and his continued service to humanity. What a great addition to the State of Nevada has been Dr. Percell Church. I am proud to be able to say he is my friend, and I look forward to his continued spiritual guidance to the people of Zion United Methodist Church and the people of the State of Nevada.

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, changing direction here a little bit, I say to Dr. Church, and others, I want to take up where we left off last night. I have thought about what status we are in here today. It is so disheartening to me. We took up this bill, this very important Defense authorization bill, Wednesday, very late in the day. Statements were given by the two managers.

We came to do our work yesterday, and we worked hard, and we were suddenly struck with the suggestion—we thought it was just some of the rumors that happen around here in the Senate that could not be valid. I called the majority leader: You are not going to file cloture on the Defense authorization bill after 1 day of debate, are you? And he said: Yes. I said: Well, Bill, I am going to go to the floor and complain about that because that is wrong.

Now, let me say, Madam President, on this issue I do not agree with a number of my Senators, but the thing he wants to take up next is an NRA bill, a bill dealing with gun liability. Fine. But at the expense of the defense of this country? What are we coming to around here? What are we coming to

here? After 1 day of debate we are getting off to do gun liability? We can do that in September when we come back here, or finish this bill.

I want the American public to know what is happening. My dear friend, the senior Senator from Virginia, got up yesterday and, in his gentlemanly way, said: Well, it is my fault. It is not his fault. Let's be realistic about it. He does not determine when cloture motions are filed. It is done by the Republican leadership in this Senate. To think we are moving off of this bill after 1 full day of debate, and cloture is filed, should be an embarrassment to this leadership that is leading this Senate.

I attended a funeral on the Saturday I came back here a couple weeks ago in Boulder City, NV. A 21-year-old man was killed in service to our country. He was a Navy SEAL named Shane Patton. The SEALs are a very small, elite group. His commander there at that funeral cried because he had lost one of his men. I think we owe more to Shane and his family—his father was also a frogman, as they are called, Jim Patton.

The distinguished ranking member will today go over how much time we have spent on these Defense bills in years past. I guarantee you, it has been more than 1 day of full debate. People are going to say: Well, we are here on Friday.

We don't dispose of anything here today. We will offer some amendments. We will have no votes. We will vote late Monday, a few hours before cloture will be voted on.

Madam President, I don't know if I can deliver, but I am going to try. I am going to try to deliver my Democratic Senators to oppose cloture. See, I have been around here a little bit. I understand the games that are being played. The Republican leader wants to blame us for not having the Defense bill go forward. Well, I want the record to be spread, it is not us. It is them. I am going to do everything within my power to stop cloture from being invoked on this bill. We deserve better than this. Shane Patton deserves more than this. In his memory, we deserve more than 1 day of debate—a 21-year-old man, dead.

We have had one recorded vote on this bill. We could have had more, but we had to stop voting yesterday early. We have offered four amendments on this side. If cloture is invoked, Members of this body will be denied the opportunity to debate and vote on major issues.

What kind of major issues? Well, such as ensuring that our troops, active and retired, get the pay and benefits they have earned. No time to debate our course in Iraq. I don't know if I am being a little too political here, but let's think about this a little bit. We are spending about \$2 billion a week in Iraq—\$2 billion a week in Iraq. I wonder, as to just that alone, should we spend more than 1 day here in the

Senate on this bill? Two billion dollars a week.

I wonder if there should be a little debate here on a Defense authorization bill about what is going on in Iraq.

What about the fact that we need to spend a little time talking about the spread of weapons of mass destruction? A report was issued on Tuesday, led by former Defense Secretary Perry, that we have a lot of loose nukes, that the real problem we have in this country, as far as our security goes, is what to do about these loose nukes. I think that deserves a little bit of time. Should we spend a little bit of time addressing the detainee abuse scandal? I think that would be a good idea. We can't do this unless we have time to debate issues and have some votes. The Defense authorization bill in years past hasn't taken days; it has taken weeks to complete. No one is trying to slow up things. I support gun manufacturers liability legislation. JACK REED who doesn't like it, but I have kept him advised every step of the way. I support that legislation, but not at the expense of Shane Patton.

If cloture is not invoked, does that mean the leader, who has the right to pull this bill off the floor, will pull it off and go to gun liability and forget the promise he made to the Hawaiian Senators, a promise that he made that we would do native Hawaiian legislation?

The move that is taking place in the Senate regarding the defense of our country is unprecedented. The Armed Services Committee keeps records back to 1987. These records are thorough and highly accurate. During that period, approximately the last 18 years, no majority leader has filed cloture on the Defense authorization bill after so little time and so little action. Doing so now during a time of war, when more than 200,000 of our troops are in harm's way looking for our support, would be as disturbing as it is unprecedented.

As it stands now, if the majority leader proceeds with this motion, it is entirely possible that the Senate will vote to cut off debate on this legislation before we will have a single vote on a Democratic amendment—a single vote. Let me repeat, it is possible we will have voted to cut off debate before we have voted on a single Democratic amendment. We can go back before 1987. I can't believe anything like that has ever happened.

If this cloture motion is successful, those who support it are sending one message—they do not believe the Senate should debate the important national security issues that are very much on the minds of our troops, their families, and the American people. At the same time, the majority leader has apparently concluded we should cut off debate on this critical legislation after less than 3 days, only one of which is a real day—around here we don't do anything on Fridays and Mondays. We travel. We go around raising money. We don't have votes. We are down to a

2½-day workweek here. But we could spend more than a month, more than 30 days on five judges, every one of which had a job. A third of our time in the Senate has been spent on five people, all of whom had jobs.

The majority leader's decision raises an important question. Why would we prematurely cut off debate on critical national security legislation? Why would we want to prevent the Senate from doing everything we can to help our men and women in uniform? The Senator from Michigan and the Senator from Virginia are role models for how to work together on legislation. He has some ideas that he wants to try to improve this bill. There are other Members who have amendments that are waiting. The Senator from Massachusetts has some ideas on how he wants to try to improve this legislation. But unfortunately, the answer to these questions is very familiar. Rather than address the concerns on the minds of the American people, our Republican colleagues are once again insisting the Senate focus its time on less important business. Earlier this year, we put judges ahead of health care, retirement security, education. Now they are apparently willing to put gun liability—and I have heard now estate tax—ahead of the needs of our troops.

Frankly, this action is not in keeping with the spirit in which this bill came to the Senate floor. To this point the process has been completely bipartisan. I should say nonpartisan. As I have already said, the chairman and ranking member, as well as the other Republicans and Democrats on the Armed Services Committee, worked together to see that our security needs were addressed. Republicans and Democrats even on the committee, after reporting the bill out, said: We have a few things we would like to try to address to the whole Senate to see if we can make the whole bill better.

The chairman welcomed input from Members on both sides of the aisle, as did the ranking member. He made no attempt to prevent Members from addressing critical issues or cut off debate, and he should be lauded for the course he chose. The majority leader should follow his example.

We want to pass this bill. We want to pass it before we go home for the August recess. That is why, for the past 2 months, I have been on this floor urging us to move to this bill. But, no, we couldn't because we were tied up with judges, the nuclear option. We were happy when he finally brought it to the floor 2 days ago. But little did we know it was apparently just an effort to get another thing off the shelf. We are here, ready to debate the numerous important issues raised by the legislation. We won't be able to do that.

I hope the Republican leadership will reconsider this action. Let us get back to work on this important bill. I repeat: We are going to oppose cloture, and that is the only thing we can do, in

my mind, to make sure that Shane Patton and the other approximately 2,000 men and women who have been killed in Iraq and the scores who have been killed in Afghanistan will have at least the attention of the Senate for a few days.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I listened carefully to my good friend from Nevada, the Democratic leader. I don't want to unduly prolong the discussion because Chairman WARNER and Ranking Member LEVIN are here to do business on the bill. The more the Democratic leader and myself talk, the less able they are to offer amendments and move forward with the bill.

I would say this, however. I don't know that it is written on some tablet somewhere that we need to spend multiple weeks on a DOD authorization bill, particularly in a time of war. We turned to this bill last Wednesday night. That is Wednesday night, Thursday, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday before the cloture vote would ripen. During all of that time, Senators could offer nongermane amendments. And then if cloture is invoked, there are 30 additional hours for amendments to be offered that are germane to the Defense bill. I don't think there is any particular reason why the Senate ought not to, particularly in a time of war, do this bill in a more expeditious manner and allow us to also complete other matters before the Senate, one of which the Democratic leader just pointed out he is in favor of, before we leave next week. We are open for business this morning. Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN are here. Others are here who want to offer amendments. We encourage that. That is why we are in session today.

My suggestion to all of us is that we move forward with the business that is before the Senate this morning.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I don't need to get the last word, but I have to get make sure the facts are spread across this Senate. Let's not be misled. Wednesday, opening statements; Thursday, one amendment voted on; Friday, nothing voted on; Monday, nothing voted on. I guess we will vote Monday night sometime. Tuesday, please help me on that, we ought to vote this Tuesday morning. And then to talk about 30 hours afterwards, that is one of the biggest farces we have around here. If you are lucky, you can have a vote or two during the 30 hours, but remember, there is no necessity to have a vote on anything. It is all up to the majority what they let us vote on.

In a time of war, does that mean we speed through this? I would think that we should take an inordinate amount of time, lots of time, when we are in a state of war. And we are in a state of war. Just ask the people of Great Britain.

I am glad we are here to do business today. The managers are here. Senator KENNEDY is here to offer an amendment. But especially in a time of war, let's at least do the average amount of debate on this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I don't want to prolong it any further because we are taking up time for the offering of amendments which we encourage. We are anxious to have amendments. We are willing to have votes. We are not trying to deny anybody the opportunity to offer their amendment or to have votes. That is why the chairman and ranking member are here today. I see Senator WARNER is ready to do business.

I yield the floor.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1042, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1042) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Frist amendment No. 1342, to support certain youth organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America.

Inhofe amendment No. 1311, to protect the economic and energy security of the United States.

Inhofe/Collins amendment No. 1312, to express the sense of Congress that the President should take immediate steps to establish a plan to implement the recommendations of the 2004 Report to Congress of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Inhofe/Kyl amendment No. 1313, to require an annual report on the use of United States funds with respect to the activities and management of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Lautenberg amendment No. 1351, to stop corporations from financing terrorism.

Ensign amendment No. 1374, to require a report on the use of riot control agents.

Ensign amendment No. 1375, to require a report on the costs incurred by the Department of Defense in implementing or supporting resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Collins amendment No. 1377 (to Amendment No. 1351), to ensure that certain persons do not evade or avoid the prohibition imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

Durbin amendment No. 1379, to require certain dietary supplement manufacturers to report certain serious adverse events.

Hutchison/Nelson (FL) amendment No. 1357, to express the sense of the Senate with regard to manned space flight.

Thune amendment No. 1389, to postpone the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.