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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, our God and King, You have promised that those who trust You will not miss out on anything good.

Give to our Senators the wonder of Your grace. Impart to them the wisdom to use their talents for Your purpose and glory. Today, surround them with the shield of Your favor and use them as instruments of Your will. May their thoughts and actions please You, for You are the one Who fills our lives with gladness.

Remind us all that when our lives please You, You enable us to live in peace even with our enemies.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, at 10:45, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense au-

thorization bill. The bill's two managers, Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN, will be here to continue to work on this important bill. Although there will be no votes during today's session, Senators are encouraged to come today and speak on the bill. Senators who are intending to offer amendments should be consulting with the managers on getting their amendments in the queue.

Senators are reminded there is a scheduled vote for 5:30 on Monday on a U.S. circuit judge nomination. We could possibly have additional votes on Monday evening on amendments to the Defense bill.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, just very briefly, I want to comment on the supplemental appropriations bill we passed yesterday morning.

I commend Senator COCHRAN and really both of the managers, and all of our colleagues, as well as the House, and especially Congressman LEWIS, for their leadership in crafting a package that reflects our commitment to economic growth, that keeps America moving forward, that is fiscally responsible.

As the majority says time and time again, the Federal budget is not the Government's money. It is the taxpayers' money. Americans work hard to get what they earn. And it is our responsibility to spend that money wisely, appropriately.

That is why we are working hard to crack down on excessive Washington spending. And I think the way that supplemental bill was handled from the beginning, and especially at the end, reflects that fiscal responsibility. As we all know, that bill did reflect a lot of priorities of this body, but it grew and grew and grew. Once that bill was taken to conference, under the leadership of Chairman COCHRAN and Con-

gressman LEWIS, it was scaled back down to meet the specific guidelines and request of the President of the United States. I think we exercised fiscal restraint and responsibility, but still there is a lot more we do need to do in terms of demonstrating that fiscal restraint and that responsibility.

One of our big challenges is the fact that much of our spending is on autopilot. We see that in our entitlement programs. Also, our budgetary process—the way it is conducted—leaves little time for oversight as to the spending.

I mention that because I want to express my strong support for the efforts of our budget chairman, Senator GREGG, for an act that is called the SOS Act, called the Stop Overspending Act, that will be marked up by his committee, addressed in his committee next week. What it is—and he introduced it to many of us this week—is a broad package on the budgetary process. It is a package of reforms that will tamp down on and give us the tools and ways to control excessive spending.

It adopts the President's proposal to establish a legislative line-item veto. It would reestablish spending caps which have been used effectively in the past. It initiates across-the-board reductions in entitlement spending if the Federal deficit fails to meet specific established targets.

It includes a proposal I have been very supportive of and introduced actually when I first arrived in the Senate to put the budget on a 2-year budget cycle, thereby giving us time for appropriate oversight.

I realize enacting this entire bold package—comprehensive in many ways, this SOS package—would be a huge challenge, particularly in Washington where the forces of spending from below, from within, remain so strong. But achieving even one of the reforms or, hopefully, several of the reforms of this package would be a major

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



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victory in the battle to control spending. It is my goal to accomplish just that before I leave the Senate.

So just like every family has to make tough tradeoffs and live within their means, Congress should, too.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, our valiant troops are now serving in their fourth year in Iraq. Day after day, they have demonstrated courage, skill, and bravery. They do not ask for much. But all of us owe them a lot.

At the top of the list of things we owe them is an honest debate about what is going on in Iraq.

Yesterday, Democrats offered an amendment to express the sense of the Senate that Iraq not grant amnesty to terrorists who kill our troops as part of their reconciliation plan. The amendment came in response to reports that the Iraqi Prime Minister was in favor of such a proposal.

But instead of joining us in a debate about this amendment, the majority, the Republicans, decided to play a political game and quickly claimed the Iraqi Prime Minister had been "misquoted" and offered some procedural gimmicks to stop a vote from taking place on this amendment.

But, just this morning, there is more news that the Prime Minister has talked about and does favor amnesty to those Iraqis who kill American troops. It is all over the country in the news. For example, it is on page 22 of the Washington Post. The aide who first leaked the story has now resigned, but he stands by what he said. Today, he is quoted as saying:

The prime minister himself has said that he is ready to give amnesty to the so-called resistance, provided they have not been involved in killing Iraqis.

What that says is just what we said yesterday: Amnesty will be granted to those who kill Americans, but not to those who hurt Iraqis.

I think this sounds like it deserves the Senate's attention. Doesn't it seem like we should weigh in on this, and tell the Iraqis there will be no "get out of jail free" cards for those who kill our troops?

We should have had that debate yesterday. But instead of having the debate, the Republicans cut and run from the debate. In effect, they are filibustering their own Defense authorization bill, not allowing the matter to move forward—stopped in midday. It does not make sense. Until we know exactly where the Iraqis stand, President Bush must come forward and tell the Iraqis to stand down.

Terrorists who kill our troops should not be set free. Our soldiers have given too much in the name of Iraqi freedom.

Mr. President, there is something else we owe our troops: an acknowledgment of their tremendous sacrifice.

Yesterday, as we know, we had a moment of silence in this Chamber because we lost our 2,500th troop in Iraq.

Mr. President, 2,500 of our finest have been killed in Iraq. The reason we had a moment of silence is because it was a solemn milestone, which we should acknowledge.

But over at the White House, I guess they have a different feeling. They apparently view this sad occasion differently. With all the news around the country today, there is a quote from Tony Snow, the President's Press Secretary, who said, in response to the news: "It's a number." "It's a number." "It's a number."

I say to Tony Snow, and others at the White House, it is more than a number. It is somebody's son or daughter. It is someone's father or mother, a neighbor, an uncle, or an aunt.

Nevada has lost 39 soldiers in Iraq—39. Every one of them is more than a number. I wonder how—and they are now my friends—two Nevadans, who came to visit me before Memorial Day—and they came to the Memorial Day ceremonies we had at the Boulder City Veterans Home, where last year we buried more than 2,000 veterans—I wonder how John Lukac's and William Salazar's parents feel about their sons being just numbers.

They are not numbers. They are no more numbers than the people who have been wounded. They are not numbers. They are people, in many instances, who have lost arms or legs or eyes or are paralyzed. They are not just numbers.

I think maybe we should discuss briefly what a Republican Congressman said yesterday. I know this man. I know him well. I have been going to the House gym for a lot of years. He is a man by the name of WAYNE GILCHREST. He is my friend. He is a Republican Congressman from Maryland.

We were standing in the House gym. I have known him for many, many years. And because of our knowing one another—he was shaving actually, with his shirt off. And on his back he had—I noticed it for years—a real scar.

I said: WAYNE, what is that scar?

He said: I was shot.

I said: Tell me about it.

He was in Vietnam. He was a sergeant. He raised his arm to fire, and as he did that, somebody shot him through the chest. The bullet came out of the back. He has a big scar in the back. The words he remembers are: "Sarge's been shot. I hope he's not dead."

He survived, but after many months in hospitals. He was a school teacher. He came back from Vietnam and taught kids. Now he is a Member of Congress, and has been for some time.

Here is what he said in yesterday's Washington Post:

I can't help but feel through eyes of a combat-wounded Marine in Vietnam, if someone

was shot, you tried to save his life . . . While you were in combat, you had a sense of urgency to end the slaughter, and around here we don't have that sense of urgency.

That is a direct quote. He went on to say:

To me, the administration does not act like there's a war going on. The Congress certainly doesn't act like there's a war going on. If you're raising money to keep the majority, if you're thinking about gay marriage, if you're doing all this other peripheral stuff, what does that say to the guy who's about ready to drive over a land mine?

Republican Congressman WAYNE GILCHREST.

John Lukac is just a number? William Salazar is just a number?

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10:45 a.m., with Senators able to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my understanding is that we are to end morning business and go on to the bill at 10:45. The hour of 10:45 has arrived, and I note that the chairman and ranking member are not here. I believe they are at a briefing. They are expected to be here shortly. But what I would like to do is ask consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for up to 10 minutes. When the chairman of the committee and the ranking member arrive, I will ask them for permission to continue, if necessary, but if they have other business, I will understand that. I think the priority is the Defense authorization bill.

So I ask unanimous consent to continue in morning business for 10 minutes.

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

INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to talk about the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and some frustration—I should say enormous frustration—that I and Senator MCCAIN have about what is happening with a piece of legislation that is so very important.

In this country, we have responsibility for health care for two groups of people: Federal prisoners who are incarcerated in prison—we are responsible for their health care. If they get