

I also want to make it clear to all of my colleagues that I support full and open debate on S. 372 and the timely consideration of all germane amendments. We ask that the amendments be germane. We would have great difficulty in conferring this bill on non-germane amendments and the possibility that they would be accepted in the final report I would say is doubtful. If confusion over the amendment filing process has prevented any Senator from getting a germane amendment considered, I will certainly work with that Member to see if we could get the amendment brought to the floor for consideration.

Again, I thank my chairman who has worked in a very cooperative manner. We are seeking to achieve a good bipartisan consensus on how we in this body exercise our very important constitutional role of providing oversight for a critically important factor in our responsibility, and that is oversight and legislation with respect to the national intelligence program and the intelligence community which administers it.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, in essence, what I will do is repeat what my valued and distinguished vice chairman said. It is a fact of life. The vice chairman and I have both been Governors. It is a fact of life that Governors don't like to have oversight. They don't get it. The legislatures don't get it. They get it by the people every 4 years.

It is a little different here. The President sends legislation. We look at it. It gets passed or not. But the country is so huge, and there are innumerable problems, none of which are more important than the national security. It is incredibly important not just to take the President's decision and assume that it is right. Maybe that works at the State level, but it doesn't work here.

We have an absolutely sacred obligation—and in this case a life-and-death obligation—to review, to do oversight, to ask questions, to call people in and to have closed hearings. We have endless numbers of closed hearings which are attended by members of the committee. Suddenly, this committee has come together, it is alive, and this sense of oversight is felt and appreciated by the intelligence community.

This single sheet of paper which every single Member will get when they come to the Chamber shows how Vice Chairman BOND and I, working together as we always do, made five major amendments to try to accommo-

date the administration with respect to the managers' amendment, which is the pending amendment. We worked those through very carefully, we agreed upon them, and they are now before us.

Then there is a separate list of five more individual amendments where we try to be responsible and responsive. That is all we can do.

The great sadness to this Senator over the past several years has been the inability of the Intelligence Committee to do oversight. That is our obligation. We need to know what is happening. There are certain areas which become so sensitive that it may be that only the vice chairman and I can be informed. People grumble about that, and so be it. That is national security protection. But we have to know what is going on, and that is the purpose of this legislation.

It has been a long time coming. The majority leader has spoken to that point. I recommend to my colleagues who come to the Chamber to vote that they take a look at this paper.

We have worked to try to accommodate the administration's objections. I am sure we have not accommodated all of them, but we have addressed some important ones without in any way interfering with our ability to do proper oversight.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, will the Senator yield to me, without losing his right to the floor, to make an announcement of some importance?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Yes.

POSTPONEMENT OF JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I just arrived back in Washington about an hour ago. I was on a flight for a number of hours and heard the horrific news of the tragedy at Virginia Tech. We had scheduled tomorrow morning before the Senate Judiciary Committee a hearing with Attorney General Gonzales. I have discussed this with the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my friend Senator ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania, and I called the Attorney General and spoke to him. All three of us agree—and they agree with my proposal—that we will postpone that hearing.

The hearing with the Attorney General will not be held tomorrow. We will postpone it until Thursday. The exact time we are working out. The Attorney General certainly was agreeable to that. I am sure he would want to be dealing with the matters of the shooting. Both Senator SPECTER and I felt this is a matter where our whole Nation is going to be grieving tomorrow and many individual Members in both bodies will be joining in that grieving and that concern for the families, for the victims of this horrible, horrible tragedy.

So the Judiciary Committee, I have decided, will not hold its hearing. It will be held Thursday.

I thank my friend from West Virginia for yielding to me so I could make that announcement.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I thank the Senator and yield to the Senator from Massachusetts such time as he may require.

EXPRESSION OF SORROW FOR VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, with a heavy heart, I rise to express my tremendous sorrow for the growing number of victims impacted by a terrible tragedy on a Virginia college campus today.

My deepest condolences and prayers go out to the students, faculty and their families at the Virginia Tech campus who have been affected by this horrific crime, especially those who lost loved ones.

The Nation is stunned by the loss of so many young lives. The tragedy is felt all the more because these were young people—children in the prime of their lives, with so much to offer—and who gave so much to their families—and now they are gone. They were sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors. They were a part of all of us—and we will feel their loss. There will be time to debate the steps needed to avert such tragedies. But today our thoughts and prayers go to their families.

Today, the world weeps for the victims at Virginia Tech. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

I thank the good Senator from West Virginia.

COURT SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, the distinguished Republican leader is not on the floor, so I move to proceed to S. 378, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 107, S. 378, the Court Security Improvement bill.

Harry Reid, Jeff Bingaman, Chuck Schumer, Jack Reed, Byron L. Dorgan, Ron Wyden, Maria Cantwell, Dianne Feinstein, Daniel K. Inouye, Daniel K. Akaka, Jim Webb, Dick Durbin, Jay Rockefeller, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara A. Mikulski, Ken Salazar, Edward M. Kennedy, Patrick Leahy.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived, as provided under rule XXII.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRAGEDY AT VIRGINIA TECH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I join so many of my colleagues today to rise in sadness and horror at what happened in Virginia at Virginia Tech. To see the picture of one of the young women, who was allegedly slain, go on the TV screen and see her young beautiful face and realize her life has been taken and thinking of her family and then magnifying this at least 30 times, it is almost too much to bear. This is a terrible tragedy for all of us.

We pray and mourn for those who were lost. At times such as this, the only solace one can take is that God works in ways we don't understand. But I wish to add my condolences to those families who lost loved ones, pray for the recovery of those who were injured, and to all the people of the Virginia Tech community, our hearts go out to you on this sad day.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—Continued

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to oppose cloture on the Intelligence authorization. There are plenty of things wrong with this bill, but our primary objection, once again, is the way it is being handled on the floor.

The Democratic majority has filed 21 cloture motions so far this session. At this rate, we will have 160 cloture motions by the end of the 110th Congress. This would shatter the old record of 82 back in 1995 and 1996.

The purpose of filing cloture early is to end debate and accelerate the passage of a measure, but abusing this privilege has the opposite effect. If the minority is shut out of the debate, it will block participation until their Members are respected and their voices are given an opportunity to be heard. We have seen this happen again and again over the last 3½ months as the majority has repeatedly struggled and failed to move legislation.

Republicans take no joy in this, but we will continue to defend our right to

be heard. The Senate, as we have learned over the years, is not the House. Contrast this torpid pace of legislation in this Congress with the first 3½ months of the last one, when Republicans passed some of the most far-reaching civil justice reforms in decades. Republicans knew that the price of passing laws was to work with the minority, to have an open debate, and to vote on amendments the other side had to offer.

On bankruptcy reform, for example, we allowed 30 votes, including final passage. On this date, in the first session of the 109th Congress, Republicans had filed only four cloture motions. Looking back to the previous Congress on this date, we had only filed four cloture motions. We have had 21 filed by the new majority.

On this date in the first session of the 108th Congress, we had filed 5 cloture motions, as compared to 21 at this point with the new majority. On this date in the first session of the 107th Congress, we had only filed one cloture motion.

I think the message is pretty clear. I started this session by expressing the hope that we would do big and important things for the country. The realities of divided Government and the rules of the Senate make that supremely possible, and I thought the bipartisan meeting we had that first week in the Old Senate Chamber was a sign of good things to come. I still have that hope, and I see a real opportunity opening with the early steps the majority leader has taken on immigration reform. We are going to that the last 2 weeks before the Memorial Day recess. I think that is a good thing. I commend him for it.

It is my hope that this trend of limited debate and limited amendments—which, of course, leads to the limitation of minority rights—will soon come to an end. Madam President, 3½ months is not that long a time. We can still correct course and accomplish very important things for our country.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 20, S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization bill of 2007.

Harry Reid, Chuck Schumer, Russell D. Feingold, Jay Rockefeller, Evan Bayh, Patty Murray, Dick Durbin, Jeff Bingaman, Robert Menendez, B.A. Mikulski, Dianne Feinstein, Bill Nelson, E. Benjamin Nelson, S. Whitehouse, Byron L. Dorgan, Blanche L. Lincoln, Ron Wyden.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that de-

bate on S. 372, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would each vote "yea."

LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 41, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

YEAS—41

Akaka	Durbin	Murray
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Feinstein	Pryor
Bingaman	Inouye	Reed
Boxer	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Brown	Klobuchar	Salazar
Byrd	Kohl	Sanders
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Levin	Stabenow
Carper	Lieberman	Tester
Casey	Lincoln	Webb
Clinton	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Conrad	Menendez	Wyden
Dorgan	Mikulski	

NAYS—40

Alexander	Crapo	Lugar
Allard	Dole	McConnell
Bennett	Domenici	Murkowski
Bond	Enzi	Reid
Bunning	Grassley	Sessions
Burr	Hagel	Shelby
Chambliss	Hatch	Smith
Coburn	Hutchison	Snowe
Coleman	Inhofe	Specter
Collins	Isakson	Stevens
Corker	Kyl	
Cornyn	Lott	