

Whereas, on January 6, 2007, Army Brigadier General Anthony J. Tata stated that the shortage of troops in Afghanistan could create a “strategic high risk, a strategic threat” to the United States and “an operational threat” to the elected government of Hamid Karzai;

Whereas, on January 15, 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates stated that there were “indications that the Taliban were planning a large spring offensive” against United States troops and NATO forces;

Whereas, on January 16, 2007, Lieutenant General Karl Eikenberry, the senior United States commander in Afghanistan, asked to extend the deployment of a United States battalion in Afghanistan that was scheduled to be redeployed to Iraq;

Whereas, on January 17, 2007, General David Richards stated that unmet pledges of troops and equipment from NATO countries have left him 10 to 15 percent short of the forces he requires, saying, “Clearly, there is a need to fulfill those commitments.”;

Whereas, on January 17, 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates stated that United States military commanders in Afghanistan have requested additional United States troops for Afghanistan, and stated that he was “sympathetic” to this request;

Whereas the United States currently has approximately 21,000 troops in Afghanistan, approximately 1/7 of the number of United States troops currently deployed to Iraq;

Whereas the President of the United States has announced plans to send approximately 21,500 additional United States troops to Iraq; and

Whereas if the United States does not strengthen efforts to defeat the Taliban and to create long-term stability in Afghanistan, Afghanistan will become what it was before the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, a haven for those who seek to harm the United States and a source of instability that threatens the security of the United States; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States must strengthen its commitment to establishing long-term stability and peace in Afghanistan;

(2) the President should not reduce the total number of United States troops serving in Afghanistan in order to increase the total number of United States troops serving in Iraq;

(3) the United States, in partnership with the International Security Assistance Force and the Government of Afghanistan, should immediately increase its efforts to eradicate the Taliban, terrorist organizations, and criminal networks currently operating in Afghanistan, including by increasing United States military personnel as requested by United States military commanders in Afghanistan;

(4) the United States, in support of the Government of Afghanistan, should significantly increase the amount of economic assistance available in Afghanistan for reconstruction, social and economic development, counternarcotics efforts, and democracy promotion activities; and

(5) the United States should work aggressively to encourage members of the international community to deliver on the financial pledges they have made to support development and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 98. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, and Mr. DEMINT)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3

proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. DURBIN) to the bill S. 1, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

SA 99. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. BENNETT) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. DURBIN) to the bill S. 1, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 98. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, and Mr. DEMINT)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. DURBIN) to the bill S. 1, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process; as follows:

Strike page 3, line 9 through page 4, line 12 and insert the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A point of order may be made by any Senator against any item contained in a conference report that includes or consists of any matter not committed to the conferees by either House.

(1) For the purpose of this section “matter not committed to the conferees by either House” shall include any item which consists of a specific provision containing a specific level of funding for any specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity, when no such specific funding was provided for such specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity in the measure originally committed to the conferees by either House.

(2) For the purpose of Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate “matter not committed” shall include any item which consists of a specific provision containing a specific level of funding for any specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity, when no such specific funding was provided for such specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity in the measure originally committed to the conferees by either House.

The point of order may be made and disposed of separately for each item in violation of this section.

(b) DISPOSITION.—If the point of order raised against an item in a conference report under subsection (a) is sustained, then—

(1) the matter in such conference report shall be stricken;

(2) when all other points of order under this section have been disposed of—

(A) the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate should recede from its amendment to the House bill, or its disagreement to the amendment of the House, and concur with a further amendment, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report that has not been stricken (any modification of total amounts appropriated necessary to reflect the deletion of the matter struck from the conference report shall be made).

SA 99. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. BENNETT) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. DURBIN) to the bill S.

1, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 16 through 19.

On page 13, lines 1 and 2, strike “the Select Committee on Ethics and”.

On page 15, strike beginning with line 22 through page 16, line 21, and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 207(j)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended, by—

(1) striking “The restrictions” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The restrictions”; and

(2) adding at the end the following:

“(B) INDIAN TRIBES.—The restrictions contained in this section shall not apply to acts done pursuant to section 104 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450i).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(j) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450i(j)) is amended by striking “and former officers and employees of the United States employed by Indian tribes may act as agents or attorneys for or” and inserting “or former officers and employees of the United States who are carrying out official duties as employees or as elected or appointed officials of an Indian tribe may communicate with and”.

On page 24, strike lines 11 through 20 and insert the following:

(A) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “Not later than 20 days after the end of the quarterly period beginning on the 1st day of January, April, July, and October of each year, or on the first business day after the 20th day if that day is not a business day, in which a registrant is registered with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, a registrant shall file a report or reports, as applicable, on its lobbying activities during such quarterly period.”;

On page 27, strike line 12 through “day,” on line 15 and insert “Not later than 20 days after the end of the end of the quarterly period beginning on the 1st day of January, April, July, and October of each year, or on the first business day after the 20th day if that day is not a business day.”.

On page 46, lines 12 and 13, strike “oversight and enforcement” and insert “administration”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the President’s Proposed Budget for FY 2008 for the Department of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Epstein at (202) 224-3031 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the President's Proposed Budget for FY 2008 for the Department of the Interior.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-0963 or Rachael Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in closed session to receive a briefing on intelligence assessments on the situation in Iraq.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 18, 2007, at 10 a.m., to vote on committee organizational matters for the 110th Congress; immediately following the executive session the committee will meet to conduct a hearing on "Examining the State of Transit Security."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to conduct oversight on Federal efforts to improve rail and surface transportation security.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on issues relating to oil and gas royalty management at the Department of the Interior.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on Iraq.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to organize for the 110th Congress by electing the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and to adopt the rules of the Committee and any other organizational business the Committee needs to consider.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Department of Justice Oversight" on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 106.

PANEL I: The Honorable Alberto Gonzales, Attorney General of the United States, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for an organizational hearing, on Thursday, January 18, 2007, beginning at 9 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 18, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

DESIGNATING SENATORS AS MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Committee on Finance, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S. Code, the designation of the following Senators as members of the Joint Committee on Taxation: the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS; the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER; the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. CONRAD; the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY; the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—S. 108

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 108, the Psychologists in the Service of the Public Act of 2007, be star printed with the changes at the desk.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 6

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding that H.R. 6 has been received from the House and is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to the second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 1 p.m. Monday, January 22; that on Monday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 2 p.m. the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 2, the minimum wage increase bill, as provided for under a previous agreement.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have already announced that there will be