

home. What better could we hope for than to see these sorts of developments? Of course, this is thanks in large part to the sacrifices of our military and our military families.

We also need to acknowledge the great strides being made by the Iraqi Government. By reasonable estimates, the Iraqis have now met 12 of the 18 benchmarks Congress set for them, and they have begun to fight against extremism and senseless violence without regard to affiliation or sectarian identification.

The recent initiative that Prime Minister Maliki undertook in Basra is a good example of taking the initiative, of doing what we had hoped for, and that is taking the training that America and our coalition partners have provided and using that training to fight for themselves. The more the Iraqis stand and fight for themselves, the more American and coalition troops can stand down and ultimately come home.

I think it is important to point out to the American people that what was supposed to be an emergency supplemental appropriations bill is not limited to war-related measures, and this is designed to slow down this important piece of legislation. We know that not only are other pet projects and unrelated spending measures included, there are \$10 million in unrelated emergency spending measures that perhaps might be justified in some other context, but we need to have this bill passed cleanly so we can get the money to the troops and so we can debate the merits of these various other programs at a later time. We should not use this bill for controversial policy measures.

Our troops, as well as the American people, deserve more open debate about complex issues—and here are four of them we need to act on—but we should not use this bill to try to get provisions passed without either adequate debate or adequate scrutiny. Things that could not be passed in the light of day should not be passed on this vehicle, this must-pass vehicle. The men and women who have made tremendous sacrifices to serve our country deserve more than to have to be asked to carry on their backs the political agendas of a few of their elected representatives.

Despite the looming shortfalls for military paychecks, the Senate does not seem all that concerned. Despite warnings by the Deputy Secretary of Defense that Congress must act before the Memorial Day recess, the majority leader recently told people it was no big deal if Congress did not. I respectfully beg to differ. Failing to supply a paycheck to our brave soldiers is an incredibly big deal. Playing politics at a time when our soldiers are being left to wonder whether they will be able to pay for their food bill, their gasoline bill, their health care or other items while Congress engages in this sort of gamesmanship is simply inexcusable.

So I think we could improve congressional approval ratings above the 13

percent who think we are doing a good or excellent job if we would simply act on this list of items which has been waiting, some for as many as 758 days, without a response from the Congress and if we would simply quit using something such as an emergency funding bill for our troops in harm's way in order to pass other unrelated pet projects or to try to impose other political agendas. I think if we acted responsibly, in a bipartisan way, to try to solve some of these problems, the American people would respond favorably. That would be good for them, that would be good for the country, and that would be good for the Senate and the Congress, generally.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SENATOR KENNEDY AND THE WAR ON CANCER

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, in about 20 minutes, I know we are going to turn pay tribute to Lyndon Baines Johnson. This is LBJ Day in the Capitol, and there are many speeches that will be made, there are many celebrations, there is a huge reunion of the LBJ family and his former staff people and supporters and Cabinet officers, and I am going to speak in that designated hour. But right now, in morning business, I would like to speak about another great Senator. I wish to speak about my colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY.

We all know we got a shock yesterday; that Senator KENNEDY has been diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor, and he has just been released from the hospital. We are all so grateful he has been able to go to the comfort of his own home with his family as they are deciding how the treatment will go forward. But I wish to take a moment to talk about something we have been working on together.

If I could think of one word for Senator TED KENNEDY, it would be "fighter." He is a fighter for the causes in which he believes. In his 46 years as a Senator, he has fought on behalf of the American people, waging so many battles to advance the causes of justice, opportunity, and peace. Now, he is set to wage the greatest fight of his life, and in that fight he has the support and prayers of all his colleagues and all the American people.

Senator KENNEDY's startling diagnosis comes the week after he and I announced our commitment to renew the war on cancer. For the last several months, Senator KENNEDY and I have been working on a bill to evaluate our

progress on cancer research and treatment, address our shortcomings, and renew our commitment to eradicating this disease. There is no other person I would rather be working with on this initiative—now more than ever.

Senator KENNEDY's diagnosis is such a poignant reminder that the battle has not been won. On May 8, the committee he chairs—the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee—held a hearing to discuss the Kennedy-Hutchison bill. Advocates and survivors of cancer such as Lance Armstrong and Elizabeth Edwards spoke about the need for progress and reform in all areas of cancer research and treatment. In the 37 years since the national declaration of the war on cancer, the age-adjusted mortality rate for cancer is still very high. When it is compared to the mortality rates of other chronic diseases, it is extraordinarily high. While there have been substantial achievements since the crusade began, we are far from winning this war. Let's look at the statistics.

Today, one out of two men and one out of three women will develop cancer in their lifetime. In my home State of Texas, approximately 96,000 people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer and 35,000 are expected to die of cancer in 2008 alone. The NIH, the National Institutes of Health, estimates the overall cost of cancer to our Nation in 2007 was \$219 billion.

These grim statistics should not belie the wealth of knowledge we have gained over the years, but it is time for legislation to address the shortcomings in the structure of cancer research and treatment. Senator KENNEDY and I are leading the effort to renew our war on cancer. We want to continue our search for cures, more effective treatments, and better preventive measures. The cancer community must embrace a coordinated assault against this disease. We must start looking at more cooperative efforts that focus on the big picture. The bill Senator KENNEDY and I will introduce is targeted at the following: removing barriers currently hindering our progress in cancer research and treatment; improving access to early detection measures and cancer care; reducing disparities in cancer treatment; increasing enrollment in clinical trials—this is a very important part that I think is one of the keys we are missing; and encouraging additional opportunities for cancer research and more cooperative cancer research.

Our bill will encourage the movement of medications and treatment from the laboratory to the bedside more quickly. It is time we started sharing more information. There is great research being done at many of our institutions—some in my home State of Texas and some in his home State of Massachusetts are the very best; in Maryland at Johns Hopkins; in Minnesota. We have wonderful research institutions. But we are not sharing the information enough. We need to

make sure this is a wholesale war and we are all in the same army, that we are marching in the same direction, and that we are coordinated in doing that.

As Senator KENNEDY wages his own personal war on this dreaded disease, he will also be leading America's war on cancer with the Kennedy-Hutchison bill that we will introduce in the Senate. So many times Senator KENNEDY has been the voice for the American people. He will truly be the voice for this bill to renew the war on cancer at this very difficult time in his life.

I know he is going to be standing on this floor, he is going to be negotiating this bill, he is going to be relentless in making sure it goes through with bipartisan support. We will work with the President—he will work with this President—because I have seen how he has worked with President Bush to further public education.

Senator KENNEDY and I are going to renew the war on cancer with a new vigor and we are going to do it together, and he is going to pass this legislation. I know he will be by my side in his fight and in his fight for the American people. We are going to support him at this time in every possible way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I intend to speak about Senator KENNEDY at a later time in more depth. Certainly there have been a lot of Senators who have said a quiet little prayer for the complete recovery of Senator KENNEDY that would include other colleagues, some of whom we do not even know about. Certainly we know about the recurrence of the cancer in the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. SPECTER. We certainly know of the physical health challenges the President pro tempore, Senator BYRD, is going through. Since this is a Senate family, perhaps the world at large doesn't understand that political differences, just as in a real family, can keep people separated. But when there is a time of need and healing, the family comes together. That is certainly the case in what we feel about Senator KENNEDY, Senator SPECTER, Senator BYRD. But I will be speaking about that later.

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, when Lyndon Johnson was Senator and majority leader, he had observed that during the Korean war, often the Soviet Union held the high ground because their MiGs could fly higher than our planes. Certainly as majority leader he went through the shocks that the entire Nation experienced when the Soviets surprised us by the launch of the first satellite, Sputnik. We knew then that the Soviet Union had the high ground. At that point the Nation came together, realizing we had a serious problem because

we had an adversary that was dedicated to the elimination of the United States of America and that for our defense interests we clearly had to start doing something about it.

There is the whole story of that extraordinary time of the late 1950s when America came together, when we finally had to reach out to a group of German scientists. We were fortunate, at the end of World War II, to get to Peenemunde, Germany, before the Soviets did, in order to get most of those German rocket scientists, led by Werner von Braun. Ultimately that was the team to which we turned to produce the rocket that could get our first satellite—Explorer was its name—in orbit. But that was after we were shocked.

This Senate, this Congress, under the leadership of Lyndon Johnson, said we have to organize ourselves in a way that we can take this on. That was the birth of NASA, 50 years ago this year. NASA was the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Now that acronym has become the noun; everybody knows it as NASA. It was the organization that was given the task after that majority leader put that through this Chamber and through the Congress, to have it signed into law by President Eisenhower, with all the ingredients in the law that would give us this Federal agency that could take on this daunting task.

Along comes the election of 1960 and Lyndon Johnson doesn't get the nomination but, because the nominee is smart enough to realize he has to bring together the party in a tough election, Lyndon Johnson is his Vice President. So they get into their first year in office and the Soviets surprise us again and they take the high ground when they launch Yuri Gagarin into one orbit.

Mind you, we didn't even have a rocket at that point that we could put a human on the top of that could get us to orbit. We were still operating off of that Army Redstone rocket that von Braun had successfully put up to put the first satellite in orbit, but it only had enough throw-weight, or power, to take that Mercury capsule with one human in it and put it into suborbit.

I remember when I was a young Congressman back in the 1980s, one day Tip O'Neill, the Speaker, saw me on the floor and he said: Bill, come here. He knew I had just flown in space. He wanted to tell me a story. As a young Boston Congressman, Tip O'Neill was down at the White House—the John Kennedy-Lyndon Johnson White House—and he said: I had never seen the President so nervous that day. He was pacing back and forth. He was just like a cat on a hot tin roof.

He asked one of the aides what is going on, and he realized that Kennedy knew that we were just about to launch Alan Shepherd, only in suborbit—and this is a few weeks after Gagarin has already taken the high ground. Of course it was then a second suborbit with Grissom, and it was 10 months

later that America had John Glenn climbing into that Mercury capsule on top of an Atlas rocket that had a 20 percent chance of failure. Of course we know the rest of the story.

Interestingly, what happened in between that time when the Soviets had taken the high ground with Gagarin up, before we could get Glenn up for three orbits, the President made the decision—and it was a bold, new vision—and said we are going to the Moon and back within 9 years. But then he turned to his Vice President to implement it. Therein lay the idea and the secret to one of the most successful governmental and technological achievements in the history of humankind with the White House, specifically the Vice President, directing the way, giving complete carte blanche to their newly selected Director of NASA, Jim Webb, to go forth and do this magnificent technological achievement.

Of course we had to scramble. Even after we had John Glenn up, the Soviets still held the high ground. They did the first rendezvous in space. But then we started to catch up and of course America knows this wonderful success story in which we were able to go to the Moon and return safely, a feat that has not been accomplished by any others.

I come back to why I am standing on this floor today. America has had that success because of the then Vice President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson, who then became President and pushed that program on through to extraordinary success.

It is fitting that the space center that trains those astronauts is named the Lyndon Baines Johnson Space Center.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

REMEMBERING LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the time between now and noon is set aside for remarks regarding President Johnson; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in the summer of 1908, a man named Sam Ealy Johnson, Sr., rode through the Texas hill country, announcing to whomever happened to pass by, "A United States Senator was born this morning!"

The name of his grandson—Lyndon Baines Johnson.

I am pleased today to mark the beginning of the celebration for the 100th birthday of that boy from Texas who would not only be Senator, but Senate majority leader, Vice-President, and President of the United States.

There is a tradition on the floor of the Senate of which our colleagues but few Americans are aware.

If you open any of the desks in the Senate Chamber, you will find carved the names of each Senator who was assigned the desk in years past.