

bucks, whether it means putting in the right kind of lightbulbs or meters on their washers and dryers so they can figure out when to run them, whether it is more fuel-efficient cars. They want to do something differently. They are ready in my State to embrace conservation as a way to save money for their families.

The time is now for Congress to take strong steps toward creating a bold energy policy. American families are depending on us.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MCCASKILL: I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECESS

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, pursuant to previous order, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will stand in recess until 3:45 p.m.

Thereupon, at 2:28 p.m., the Senate recessed until 3:46 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. NELSON of Florida).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Republicans control the time until 4 p.m., the Democrats control the next 30 minutes, the Republicans control the following 30 minutes, and the Senate continue to alternate control of 30 minute blocks of time thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Now, Mr. President, I understand Senator DOMENICI wishes also to say a few words. As far as I am concerned—

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I was hoping our leader would be here because he wanted some of this 15 minutes and I was thinking I could get in on part of it and I would not be here all afternoon. I do not have a long speech.

I say to the Senator, I understand he might.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Yes. Mr. President, I intend to use the first Democratic block of 30 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Right.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. But if Senator DOMENICI wishes to speak in the first Republican 15 minutes, and if he goes over for a certain amount of time, I am perfectly happy to yield to him. He is a very distinguished Senator.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I say to the Senator, thank you so much. I am going to proceed on our time and

see what happens with our leader. If he arrives, I will, obviously, yield to him. I will sit down and quickly get out of the way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

ENERGY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is nice to be here with you in the chair, since we are discussing issues that are very important, of which you have been a part for a while around here.

First of all, I wish to talk for a minute about the good news. The good news is that crude oil prices have gone down \$16 a barrel in 3 days. That is a bigger drop in the prices of crude oil in history in terms of actual dollars. One of those 3 days it was an \$8 drop. I do not know what this bodes for the future, but today it looks good, it sounds good, and it ought to make us feel good.

What we ought to do is something positive that will have a chance of showing the world; that is, the world that is buying and selling oil and buying and trading oil futures on the market, that there is going to be more oil coming on because the United States has awakened; we have decided that after 27 years of being asleep. We have all this property called the continental offshore, which is owned by the people of our country, and for 27 years we kept all but small portions of it under lock and key. We had decided it was not worth opening that to drilling, even in modern days, when we have the cleanest and best way to go into deep waters and drill for oil. With oil spills being at a minimum, we kept it locked up.

The year before last, we passed a bill that started the process of opening parts of this great valuable offshore owned by our people. Yes, the President of the United States waited around for us to act and finally decided he would lift the Executive ban, the Presidential moratorium that was on 85 percent of the offshore that has been locked up.

Make no bones about it, now, when people say we have already let a lot of that land out to bid, 85 percent of the offshore—85 percent of the offshore—was under lock and key by moratorium until the President lifted the Executive ban. We now have imposed, on that same 85 percent, millions and millions of acres of offshore property.

Now we have the situation where, come the first day of October, the Congress will have to act to put on another 1-year moratorium; the moratorium of Congress is 1 year at a time. We will have to act to put it on or there will be no moratorium, and it will be open for leases pursuant to the law of the land.

This morning, I attended a workshop held by the Energy Committee to discuss the price of oil. We had two leading experts, and we were very fortunate, except that I would say we have heard about enough from experts, and we have talked enough about the prob-

lem. We ought to do something within the next couple weeks.

But at this workshop was Dan Yergin, chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates, publisher of a very popular book on oil. He was accompanied by Roger Diwan of PFC Energy. Their message to us this morning, with many Senators asking questions, coming in and out of the room, was the same as I have been hearing from leading economists for the last several weeks. What did they say? Supply and demand problems are the reason why gas prices are so high, why crude oil prices are so high.

The majority leader stopped by our workshop this morning to talk about the bill he has introduced today on speculation. He said that while he understood that speculation was not the only problem, he thought it was a big part of it and we should start there. Well, obviously, he controls how we start, so perhaps we will start with speculation. I, for one, think speculation is not nearly the problem of supply and demand, it is not nearly the problem of opening more property we own for drilling. I think that is the real problem: to put more of that out to the oil operators of the country and get started on some real new production.

I am puzzled by the decision our leader has made about going first with speculation, antispeculation statutes. I am not against looking at that, but if there is something we can do to increase transparency, that is fine. But why would we start by addressing problems when the experts tell us they are not the real problem?

What do the experts say? I will share with you a few comments of what they say.

David Yergin, a great expert, a very fluent man:

The rise in oil prices can be explained by basic economic factors, such as limited growth in supplies in recent years, a weakening dollar, a global surge in energy demand, and a string of production disruptions in countries such as Nigeria.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke:

There is speculation, but speculation, under most circumstances, is a positive thing. It provides liquidity and allows people to hedge their risks. And it provides price discovery. It can help allocate oil availability over time, depending on the pattern of future prices and so on.

Warren Buffett, chairman of Berkshire Hathaway:

It's not speculation, it's supply and demand. We don't have excess capacity in the world anymore, and that's what you're seeing in oil prices.

So why would we start with speculation, instead of supply and demand? Eighty-five percent of the continental U.S. lands offshore are being locked up by Congress; that is, we have a prohibition. The most conservative estimates of how much oil is in the Atlantic and Pacific offshore is 14 billion barrels. Now, I actually think that is totally wrong. I think we have many times that, perhaps as much as three times

that. We have not done a current evaluation, so we are doing some enlightened guessing. Yet we are coming up with 14 billion barrels that is out there that we might be able to drill for and bring on board.

Let me assure everyone that is no pittance. That is a lot. For some perspective, that is more oil than the United States has imported from the Persian Gulf in 15 years and more oil than we have gotten from the Gulf of Mexico in 50 years.

We have a plan to allow States to tap into those resources. The American people support that plan overwhelmingly. Why shouldn't we start there?

From 1998 to 2002, global demand rose by 4 million barrels per day. Since 2002, it has risen by 8 million barrels per day.

In China, the number of cars on the road double every 5 years. The economy there is growing by 10 percent annually. Yet, through problems in places such as Nigeria, we have lost global supplies.

It should be no surprise that prices have gone up. It is clear what this Senate needs to do about it: increase American production now.

I close by saying, the time has come to act on supply and demand. That means, as the American people are saying it: Start drilling on our property to produce oil and gas for our people instead of getting more and more from others overseas and actually sending all our wealth overseas, putting us in a ruinous situation, where we are growing poorer and poorer by the day.

With that, I wonder if the distinguished Senator from Virginia would like to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I have a long history of supporting opening the OCS to drilling. Aside from being a longtime supporter of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, I have also engaged in attempts to open the Pacific, Atlantic, and Gulf Coasts to drilling.

While we were successful in opening a portion of the gulf, the Pacific and Atlantic coasts remain off limits.

Instead of focusing my effort on all the off-limit portions of the OCS, I have concentrated over the last year on opening the coast of Virginia, for exploration of natural gas only. I think the history on this effort demonstrates a momentum shift in the minds of my colleagues.

In June 2007, I offered an amendment to the Energy Policy Act of 2007 that would allow for the exploration of natural gas in Virginia only. Extraction of natural gas could only occur if the Governor and State legislature approve such a move.

That vote lost by a vote of 44 nays and 43 yeas.

Of those 44 nays, there are two Senators who are now cosponsors of the Gas Price Reduction Act, a bill that includes a drilling title.

With the nonvoting Members, I think we could win this vote today, on an up-or-down vote.

This fact is significant because it represents a shift in momentum and the way my colleagues are now thinking of rectifying this energy crisis in which our Nation finds itself.

Mr. President, I commend my distinguished colleague, whom I have been these 30 years sharing this floor with from time to time.

Mr. DOMENICI. That is right.

Mr. WARNER. We have collaborated on so many things together.

Mr. DOMENICI. That is right.

Mr. WARNER. But now, as both of us are looking forward to quietly stepping down, I say to the Senator, you are carrying as full a weight as you ever did, and you are the man of the hour among our peer group to work on this energy question because of the depth and background you have on this subject.

Mr. DOMENICI. Thank you, sir.

Mr. WARNER. So I commend you on your efforts with respect to drilling. But I wonder if you would bear with me a minute. Several years ago, I started on this, trying to drill offshore. Do you remember that?

Mr. DOMENICI. Yes, sir, I do.

Mr. WARNER. You always said to me, well, there will come a time.

Mr. DOMENICI. Yes, sir.

Mr. WARNER. But I kept putting in bill after bill, and Senator ALEXANDER joined me on one. And now—

Mr. DOMENICI. The time is here.

Mr. WARNER. The President has joined, and the time is here.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of the votes that were actually cast on my amendment at one time, where I lost by—it was actually 44 to 43—1 vote.

Mr. DOMENICI. Yes.

Mr. WARNER. Or I would have received a majority vote at that time, notwithstanding the 60 votes required for passage, and we might be a little further down the road if that had happened.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE ROLL CALL VOTES 110TH CONGRESS—1ST SESSION

(As compiled through Senate LIS by the Senate Bill Clerk under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate)

VOTE SUMMARY

Question: On the Amendment (Warner Amdt. No. 1566, As Modified).

Vote Number: 212

Vote Date: June 14, 2007, 05:30 PM.

Required for Majority: 3/5.

Vote Result: Amendment Rejected.

Amendment Number: S. Amdt. 1566 to S. Amdt. 1502 to H.R. 6 (CLEAN Energy Act of 2007).

Statement of Purpose: To authorize the State of Virginia to petition for authorization to conduct natural gas exploration and drilling activities in the coastal zone of the State.

Vote Counts: Yeas—43; Nays—44; Not Voting—12.

ALPHABETICAL BY SENATOR NAME

Akaka (D-HI), Nay	Domenici (R-NM), Yea	McCaskill (D-MO), Nay
Alexander (R-TN), Yea	Dorgan (D-ND), Nay	McConnell (R-KY), Yea
Allard (R-CO), Yea	Durbin (D-IL), Nay	Menendez (D-NJ), Nay
Baucus (D-MT), Nay	Ensign (R-NV), Not Voting	Mikulski (D-MD), Nay
Bayh (D-IN), Nay	Enzi (R-WY), Yea	Murkowski (R-AK), Yea
Bennett (R-UT), Yea	Feingold (D-WI), Nay	Murray (D-WA), Nay
Biden (D-DE), Nay	Feinstein (D-CA), Not Voting	Nelson (D-FL), Nay
Bingaman (D-NM), Nay	Graham (R-SC), Yea	Nelson (D-NE), Yea
Bond (R-MO), Yea	Grassley (R-IA), Yea	Obama (D-IL), Not Voting
Boxer (D-CA), Nay	Gregg (R-NH), Yea	Pryor (D-AR), Yea
Brown (D-OH), Nay	Hagel (R-NE), Yea	Reed (D-RI), Nay
Brownback (R-KS), Yea	Harkin (D-IA), Nay	Reid (D-NV), Nay
Bunning (R-KY), Yea	Hatch (R-UT), Yea	Roberts (R-KS), Not Voting
Burr (R-NC), Yea	Hutchison (R-TX), Yea	Rockefeller (D-WV), Nay
Byrd (D-WV), Nay	Inhofe (R-OK), Yea	Salazar (D-CO), Nay
Cantwell (D-WA), Nay	Inouye (D-HI), Nay	Sanders (I-VT), Nay
Cardin (D-MD), Nay	Isakson (R-GA), Yea	Schumer (D-NY), Nay
Carper (D-DE), Yea	Johnson (D-SD), Not Voting	Sesions (R-AL), Not Voting
Casey (D-PA), Nay	Kennedy (D-MA), Nay	Shelby (R-AL), Yea
Chambliss (R-GA), Yea	Kerry (D-MA), Nay	Smith (R-OR), Nay
Clinton (D-NY), Not Voting	Klobuchar (D-MN), Nay	Snowe (R-ME), Nay
Coburn (R-OK), Not Voting	Kohl (D-WI), Nay	Specter (R-PA), Yea
Cochran (R-MS), Yea	Kyl (R-AZ), Yea	Stabenow (D-MI), Nay
Coleman (R-MN), Not Voting	Landrieu (D-LA), Yea	Stevens (R-AK), Yea
Collins (R-ME), Nay	Lautenberg (D-NJ), Nay	Sununu (R-NH), Yea
Conrad (D-ND), Nay	Leahy (D-VT), Nay	Tester (D-MT), Nay
Corker (R-TN), Yea	Levin (D-MI), Not Voting	Thune (R-SD), Yea
Cornyn (R-TX), Yea	Lieberman (ID-CT), Nay	Vitter (R-LA), Yea
Craig (R-ID), Yea	Lincoln (D-AR), Yea	Voinovich (R-OH), Yea
Crapo (R-ID), Yea	Lott (R-MS), Yea	Warner (R-VA), Yea
DeMint (R-SC), Yea	Lugar (R-IN), Yea	Webb (D-VA), Yea
Dodd (D-CT), Not Voting	Martinez (R-FL), Nay	Whitehouse (D-RI), Nay
Dole (R-NC), Nay	McCain (R-AZ), Not Voting	Wyden (D-OR), Nay

GROUPED BY VOTE POSITION

YEAS—43

Alexander (R-TN)	DeMint (R-SC)	McConnell (R-KY)
Allard (R-CO)	Domenici (R-NM)	Murkowski (R-AK)
Bennett (R-UT)	Enzi (R-WY)	Nelson (D-NE)
Bond (R-MO)	Graham (R-SC)	Pryor (D-AR)
Brownback (R-KS)	Grassley (R-IA)	Shelby (R-AL)
Bunning (R-KY)	Gregg (R-NH)	Specter (R-PA)
Burr (R-NC)	Hagel (R-NE)	Stevens (R-AK)
Carper (D-DE)	Hatch (R-UT)	Sununu (R-NH)
Chambliss (R-GA)	Hutchison (R-TX)	Thune (R-SD)
Cochran (R-MS)	Inhofe (R-OK)	Vitter (R-LA)
Corker (R-TN)	Isakson (R-GA)	Voinovich (R-OH)
Cornyn (R-TX)	Kyl (R-AZ)	Warner (R-VA)
Craig (R-ID)	Landrieu (D-LA)	Webb (D-VA)
Crapo (R-ID)	Lincoln (D-AR)	
	Lott (R-MS)	
	Lugar (R-IN)	

NAYS—44

Akaka (D-HI)	Casey (D-PA)	Klobuchar (D-MN)
Baucus (D-MT)	Collins (R-ME)	Kohl (D-WI)
Bayh (D-IN)	Conrad (D-ND)	Lautenberg (D-NJ)
Biden (D-DE)	Dole (R-NC)	Leahy (D-VT)
Bingaman (D-NM)	Dorgan (D-ND)	Lieberman (ID-CT)
Boxer (D-CA)	Durbin (D-IL)	Martinez (R-FL)
Brown (D-OH)	Feingold (D-WI)	McCaskill (D-MO)
Byrd (D-WV)	Harkin (D-IA)	
Cantwell (D-WA)	Inouye (D-HI)	
Cardin (D-MD)	Kennedy (D-MA)	
	Kerry (D-MA)	

Menendez (D-NJ) Rockefeller (D-MD) Snowe (R-ME)
Mikulski (D-MD) WV Stabenow (D-MI)
Murray (D-WA) Salazar (D-CO) Tester (D-MT)
Nelson (D-FL) Sanders (I-VT) Whitehouse (D-RI)
Reed (D-RI) Schumer (D-NY) Wyder (D-OR)
Reid (D-NV) Smith (R-OR)

NOT VOTING—12

Clinton (D-NY) Ensign (R-NV) McCain (R-AZ)
Coburn (R-OK) Feinstein (D-CA) Obama (D-IL)
Coleman (R-MN) Johnson (D-SD) Roberts (R-KS)
Dodd (D-CT) Levin (D-MI) Sessions (R-AL)

GROUPED BY HOME STATE

Alabama: Sessions (R-AL), Not Voting;
Shelby (R-AL), Yea.
Alaska: Murkowski (R-AK), Yea; Stevens (R-AK), Yea.
Arizona: Kyl (R-AZ), Yea; McCain (R-AZ), Not Voting.
Arkansas: Lincoln (D-AR), Yea; Pryor (D-AR), Yea.
California: Boxer (D-CA), Nay; Feinstein (D-CA), Not Voting.
Colorado: Allard (R-CO), Yea; Salazar (D-CO), Nay.
Connecticut: Dodd (D-CT), Not Voting; Lieberman (D-CT), Nay.
Delaware: Biden (D-DE), Nay; Carper (D-DE), Yea.
Florida: Martinez (R-FL), Nay; Nelson (D-FL), Nay.
Georgia: Chambliss (R-GA), Yea; Isakson (R-GA), Yea.
Hawaii: Akaka (D-HI), Nay; Inouye (D-HI), Nay.
Idaho: Craig (R-ID), Yea; Crapo (R-ID), Yea.
Illinois: Durbin (D-IL), Nay; Obama (D-IL), Not Voting.
Indiana: Bayh (D-IN), Nay; Lugar (R-IN), Yea.
Iowa: Grassley (R-IA), Yea; Harkin (D-IA), Nay.
Kansas: Brownback (R-KS), Yea; Roberts (R-KS), Not Voting.
Kentucky: Bunning (R-KY), Yea; McConnell (R-KY), Yea.
Louisiana: Landrieu (D-LA), Yea; Vitter (R-LA), Yea.
Maine: Collins (R-ME), Nay; Snowe (R-ME), Nay.
Maryland: Cardin (D-MD), Nay; Mikulski (D-MD), Nay.
Massachusetts: Kennedy (D-MA), Nay; Kerry (D-MA), Nay.
Michigan: Levin (D-MI), Not Voting; Stabenow (D-MI), Nay.
Minnesota: Coleman (R-MN), Not Voting; Klobuchar (D-MN), Nay.
Mississippi: Cochran (R-MS), Yea; Lott (R-MS), Yea.
Missouri: Bond (R-MO), Yea; McCaskill (D-MO), Nay.
Montana: Baucus (D-MT), Nay; Tester (D-MT), Nay.
Nebraska: Hagel (R-NE), Yea; Nelson (D-NE), Yea.
Nevada: Ensign (R-NV), Not Voting; Reid (D-NV), Nay.
New Hampshire: Gregg (R-NH), Yea; Sununu (R-NH), Yea.
New Jersey: Lautenberg (D-NJ), Nay; Menendez (D-NJ), Nay.
New Mexico: Bingaman (D-NM), Nay; Domenici (R-NM), Yea.
New York: Clinton (D-NY), Not Voting; Schumer (D-NY), Nay.
North Carolina: Burr (R-NC), Yea; Dole (R-NC), Nay.
North Dakota: Conrad (D-ND), Nay; Dorgan (D-ND), Nay.
Ohio: Brown (D-OH), Nay; Voinovich (R-OH), Yea.
Oklahoma: Coburn (R-OK), Not Voting; Inhofe (R-OK), Yea.
Oregon: Smith (R-OR), Nay; Wyden (D-OR), Nay.
Pennsylvania: Casey (D-PA), Nay; Specter (R-PA), Yea.

Rhode Island: Reed (D-RI), Nay;
Whitehouse (D-RI), Nay.
South Carolina: DeMint (R-SC), Yea; Graham (R-SC), Yea.
South Dakota: Johnson (D-SD), Not Voting; Thune (R-SD), Yea.
Tennessee: Alexander (R-TN), Yea; Corker (R-TN), Yea.
Texas: Cornyn (R-TX), Yea; Hutchison (R-TX), Yea.
Utah: Bennett (R-UT), Yea; Hatch (R-UT), Yea.
Vermont: Leahy (D-VT), Nay; Sanders (I-VT), Nay.
Virginia: Warner (R-VA), Yea; Webb (D-VA), Yea.
Washington: Cantwell (D-WA), Nay; Murray (D-WA), Nay.
West Virginia: Byrd (D-WV), Nay; Rockefeller (D-WV), Nay.
Wisconsin: Feingold (D-WI), Nay; Kohl (D-WI), Nay.
Wyoming: Enzi (R-WY), Yea.

Mr. WARNER. But I wish to say how pleased I am to see you vigorous and strong, and with our distinguished leader, Senator MCCONNELL, leading the charge. I hope we get it up here and let these 100 Senators speak their will.

Mr. DOMENICI. Thank you. I am glad to be at our Republican leader's side on this issue and help wherever I can.

Mr. WARNER. We share that.

Mr. DOMENICI. We are aware this is a real big, big-time American problem, as hard as any kind of problem as we have had.

Mr. WARNER. I say to the Senator, go back and look at your mailbox, look at your e-mail, look at the hundreds of communications each of us are receiving every day.

Mr. DOMENICI. You bet.

Mr. WARNER. These people are gathered—I would say almost a quarter of Americans are gathered around the kitchen table every night looking at the increased costs in their food, the increased costs in their heating and their gasoline, trying to figure out how they are going to make ends meet, with relatively small amounts of dollars in the overall picture. But to them, it is the difference between buying a little extra food and having the choice to forego it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, let me just say to my good friend from Rhode Island, I am sorry we have gotten a little bit behind. My remarks are not very long, and I will be happy to proceed on leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may proceed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I am happy the leader should proceed. I simply wished to have an idea of how long it might be so I know when I would begin.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Ten minutes or less.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, if I could make an inquiry of the distinguished leader while he is on the Senate floor, at some point I would like to work into the queue. If my good friend from Rhode Island is following the leader, perhaps I could follow him. Is there a standing order?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If I could indicate to the Senator from Virginia, we are under an order that allocates the time of one-half-hour blocks, and I have our first Democratic half hour. So it would probably be more convenient and better, if the Senator simply followed the Republican leader, and I just deferred some additional time to allow him to speak directly after the Republican leader, and we can adjust the order accordingly.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I appreciate that courtesy, and I will just take, say, 6 minutes following the distinguished Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, my remarks are on another issue, but I was here for the colloquy between my good friend from Virginia and my equally good friend from New Mexico. We all know they are both retiring from the Senate later this year, but it is serendipitous that this issue has arisen at this particular time, when the American people are demanding the kind of action that the Senator from New Mexico and the Senator from Virginia have been promoting for years. So I think it is a good thing that while they are still here in their service to our country, we will be debating this issue vigorously next week, and all of us hope for success.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another issue, this is the 1-year anniversary of the nomination of Judge Robert Conrad to be a member of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. When this Congress began, the majority leader and I agreed that partisanship in the judicial nominations process was unhealthy, and we said this Congress would be different. The Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post acknowledged the President did his part to get the process off to a good start back in the beginning of this Congress. They, and many others, complimented his good faith in not resubmitting circuit court nominees whom some of our Democratic colleagues did not like.

The majority leader himself said how much he appreciated the President's good faith. He said:

I personally want the record to reflect that I appreciate the President not sending back four names that were really controversial.

The majority leader also said he and his colleagues had an obligation to reciprocate and treat circuit court nominees fairly. He said:

I think we have to reciprocate in a way that is appropriate, and we are going to try to do that by looking at these nominees as quickly as we can.