

three of my five children graduated from schools in Virginia. It is a wonderful place, and tourism is very important to Virginia. This bill is important to Virginia.

Again, travel and tourism generate \$1 trillion in economic activity around the country every year, and in its first year, this bill will create more than 40,000 jobs. The bill will cut our deficit. We are not asking for money from the public trough to take care of this. This bill will cut our deficit by \$425 million over the next decade. We save money by doing this. We make money by doing this. We will be taking the strategies that have made Las Vegas such a success and bringing them to our entire Nation's tourism industry. It is one of the many ways we are working to create jobs and help our economy recover.

So far, the minority has shown no interest in either creating jobs or in helping our economy recover. I hope that, in this case, past is not prologue.

One of my floor staff here said they saw a Republican staffer just a short time ago and the Republican staffer said: Why won't you let us offer amendments?

That is some kind of game being played. I have had conversations with the Republican leader and with other Republican Senators on this bill, and I have said: Let's move on with this legislation. Under the rules, the amendments ultimately have to be germane, but I have said: I don't care if they are germane or not. If you want to offer amendments, that is what we have done all year and we will do it here.

They wanted to offer four amendments on TARP, and I said: Well, that has nothing to do with tourism, but if you want to do that, go ahead and do it.

In response, Senator SANDERS, from Vermont, told me that he had an amendment he wanted to offer. I said: Listen, BERNIE, if you want to offer a nongermane amendment, you can do it. If they want to offer a nongermane amendment, they can; otherwise, we are not going to do that.

So we have all these nongermane amendments they want to offer, and he has one he wants to offer. His amendment simply restates the law and makes it a little stronger, and in effect what it does is takes a look at the oil companies to see if they are manipulating prices. So the Republicans said: No, we are not going to agree to that; we want you to take all of our amendments, we will vote on them, and none for you. Well, that is not fair, it is not reasonable, and it is only an excuse for Republicans to again stymie legislation.

So let's get the facts straight. At the start of the debate, we offered Republicans nongermane amendments. They could have more amendments than we could have. We agreed to do that. Not a single one of the Republican amendments was related to this bill, and some of the amendments were even du-

plicates. But I said: Let's go ahead and do it anyway. Of course, the Republicans said no. They refuse to let us move forward, once again wasting the American people's time and money. They refuse to let us move forward—I repeat—once again wasting the American people's time and money.

It is difficult to watch what is going on here and come away with a sense that the Republicans have even the slightest interest in legislating or that they have the slightest understanding of what families are facing across the country. Just last week, in the Roll Call publication, a Republican Senator said—and it is on the front page—"Senate GOP Still Saying No." A Republican Senator said this last week in one of the newspapers that cover Capitol Hill, Roll Call:

Democrats need to know when they bring [bills] up, we're going to extend debate as long as we can—even if we can't win it.

So I say to this Republican Senator and all Republican Senators: This isn't a game. I say to those watching and listening today: The next time Republicans trot out their stale standard talking points about congressional approval ratings or the inefficiency of government, pay attention to see whether they also quote their fellow Republican Senator who admits they are not here to work. These partisan tactics have consequences. These consequences will be evident on every kitchen table, every family budget, and every American's peace of mind.

I encourage Republicans to finish this legislation. I have said that if there are nongermane amendments they want to file, even though we have no obligation to do that, we will have those amendments during the 30-hour postcloture time and dispose of them. I don't understand what the deal is here. This is the 18th time we have had to file cloture this year—the 18th time. In spite of that, we have been able to get a lot of work done. But I do encourage Republicans to join with us in moving this legislation forward. It is important.

I look around the floor, and I see Virginia, Nevada, and Arizona Senators here. Tourism is very important. It will create jobs. It will cut our deficit. It is not a bad combination. So I would encourage Republicans to join in this important travel promotion bill and to openly pass it so we can bring jobs home, helping our country prosper once again. We know if we can get past this procedural hurdle where we need 60 votes, all Democrats will vote to move forward. That is the right thing to do. Shouldn't we get even the sponsors of the bill to join in?

We haven't stopped the amendment process. They are going to have to come up with a different reason for voting against it than that because everyone has had an opportunity.

So I hope we can move forward. It was a bill that was originally going to be managed by Senators DORGAN and ENSIGN. Senator MARTINEZ has been

heavily involved. I thought we had things all worked out with him and Senator DORGAN on Thursday, but it all fell apart because of the inability to have Senator SANDERS have his amendment.

I simply don't understand what excuse they have for not moving forward with this legislation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Arizona.

IRAN

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, there is a news report from the Associated Press entitled "Iranian Police Use Force To Break Up Protest." The article reads as follows:

Tehran, Iran—Riot police attacked hundreds of demonstrators with tear gas and fired live bullets in the air to disperse a rally in central Tehran Monday, carrying out a threat by the country's most powerful security force to crush any further opposition protests over the disputed presidential election. Witnesses said helicopters hovered overhead as about 200 protesters gathered at Haft-e-Tir Square. But hundreds of anti-riot police quickly put an end to the demonstration and prevented any gathering, even small groups, at the scene. Iran says at least 17 protesters have been killed in a week of unrest so far after the electoral council declared hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad winner of the June 12 election.

Severe restrictions on reporters have made it almost impossible to independently verify any reports on demonstrations, clashes, and casualties. Iran has ordered reporters for foreign news agencies to stay in their offices, barring them from any reporting on the streets.

The story goes on. Demonstrations followed by repression, followed by murder in the streets. As these things seem to evolve, an event took place yesterday which may be the defining moment in the struggle of the Iranian people to be able to peacefully disagree with their government, in this case, because of a corrupt and fraudulent election, without being killed in the streets and beaten and imprisoned.

It has to do with a woman named Neda. I quote from an ABC news story dated June 22, 2009.

She sinks to the ground—and a few minutes later she is dead. A video that has been repeatedly posted on the Internet purports to show the last moments of Neda, a young Iranian woman shot in the heart by government sharpshooters. Overnight she has become a symbol of the opposition. [Her] shaky

blurred images: A young woman collapses onto the pavement, a dark pool of blood spreads beneath her body. Two men kneel next to the woman and press on her chest, screaming. The camera phone which is filming her zooms in on her face. Her pupils roll to the side. Blood streams out of her nose and mouth.

"Neda, don't be afraid! Neda, stay with me. Neda, stay with me!" [cries one man.]

Another man beseeches someone to take her in a car. Then the footage stops.

The video footage appeared on the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter on Saturday evening. It immediately became a viral sensation, being forwarded repeatedly. User groups were determined to get around YouTube's attempts to block the immensely graphic film. They posted the clip so often it became impossible for YouTube to remove it.

So we have seen, as we have in cases of other brutal repressions throughout history, a living example or the dying example of martyrdom. By Sunday morning, Neda became the fifth most common topic on Twitter. She had already become a kind of Joan of Arc.

"It took only one bullet to kill Neda, it will take only one Neda to stop Iranian tyranny" was one posting from Tehran on Twitter.

Neda died with open eyes. Shame on us who live with closed eyes.

"They killed Neda, but not her voice" was another.

During the day, thousands of people replaced their profile pictures with tributes to the young woman such as "I am Neda," or "Neda forever." Others posted images of a broken heart in green, the color of the opposition movement.

So a debate has been going on as to how much the United States of America, its President, the Congress, and the American people should speak out in favor and in support of these brave Iranians—the average age in Tehran is 33 years of age—and their quests for the fundamentals of freedom and democracy that we have enjoyed for more than a couple of centuries.

Today, I and all America, pay tribute to a brave young woman who was trying to exercise her fundamental human rights and was killed in the streets of Tehran. All Americans are with her, our thoughts and our prayers for her, her family, and her countrymen.

I ask unanimous consent to have two news articles that I quoted printed in the RECORD.

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

[From abcnews.go.com June 22, 2009]

NEDA, IS SHE IRAN'S JOAN OF ARC?

NEDA HAS BECOME A SYMBOL AND MARTYR FOR THE IRANIAN OPPOSITION

(By Ulrike Putz)

BEIRUT.—She sinks to the ground—and a few minutes later she is dead. A video that has been repeatedly posted on the Internet

purports to show the last moments of Neda, a young Iranian woman shot in the heart by government sharpshooters. Overnight she has become a symbol of the opposition. They are shaky, blurred images: A young woman collapses onto the pavement, a dark pool of blood spreads beneath her body. Two men kneel next to the woman and press on her chest, screaming. The camera phone which is filming her zooms in on her face. Her pupils roll to the side, blood streams out of her nose and mouth. "Neda, don't be afraid! Neda, stay with me. Neda, stay with me!" cries one man. Another man beseeches someone to take her in a car. Then the footage stops.

It cannot be confirmed if the 40-second film, which was posted on the Internet on Saturday, really shows the death of a young Iranian demonstrator. Like almost all the video and photo material coming out of Iran these days, it is impossible to verify its authenticity. However, even if it may never be certain if these images really show the death of a young woman named Neda, she has still become an icon, a martyr for the opposition in Iran. Neda has given the regime's brutality a bloody face and a name. Overnight "I am Neda," has become the slogan of the protest movement.

The video footage appeared on the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter on Saturday evening. It immediately became a viral sensation, being forwarded repeatedly. User groups were determined to get around YouTube's attempts to block the immensely graphic film. They posted the clip so often that it became impossible for YouTube to remove it. The first postings were furnished with a commentary. A supposed eyewitness described what was happening. He gave details, presumably in order to underscore the clip's veracity. The incident occurred on the Karekar Avenue, at the corner of Khoravi Street and Salehi Street in Tehran at 7:05 p.m. local time, he reported.

COULD NEDA CHANGE THE COURSE OF IRAN'S HISTORY?

A young woman, watching the protests together with her father, the commentary said, was shot in the heart by a sharpshooter with the Basij, the government militia. "I am a doctor, so I rushed to try to save her," the man says. "But the impact of the gunshot was so fierce that the bullet blasted inside the victim's chest and she died in less than two minutes." "The film is shot by my friend who was standing beside me," he continues. "Please let the world know." Persian-speaking Internet users quickly supplied a translation. The screams, "Stay with me, Neda!" are said to have come from the young woman's father. By Sunday morning "Neda" was the fifth most commented topic on Twitter. She had already become a kind of Joan of Arc. "It took only one bullet to kill Neda. It will take only one Neda to stop Iranian tyranny," was one posting from Tehran on Twitter.

"Neda died with open eyes. Shame on us who live with closed eyes," was one entry. "They killed Neda, but not her voice," was another. During the day thousands of people replaced their profile pictures with tributes to the young woman, such as "I am Neda" or "Neda forever." Others posted images of a broken heart in green, the color of the opposition movement. Many blogs, including that of the New York Times, are now speculating if the footage could change the course of history. There are parallels being drawn to the images that became iconic during the Islamic Revolution. The film could become as much as a symbol as those now historic images from 1979 which showed the Shah's troops shooting on unarmed demonstrators.

IRANIAN POLICE USE FORCE TO BREAK UP PROTEST

(By Nasser Karimi and Jim Heintz)

TEHRAN.—Riot police attacked hundreds of demonstrators with tear gas and fired live bullets in the air to disperse a rally in central Tehran Monday, carrying out a threat by the country's most powerful security force to crush any further opposition protests over the disputed presidential election.

Britain, accused by Iran of fomenting post-election unrest, said it was evacuating the families of diplomats and other officials based in Iran—the first country to do so as Iran's worst internal conflict since the 1979 Islamic Revolution escalated.

Witnesses said helicopters hovered overhead as about 200 protesters gathered at Haft-e-Tir Square. But hundreds of anti-riot police quickly put an end to the demonstration and prevented any gathering, even small groups, at the scene.

At the subway station at Haft-e-Tir, the witnesses said police did not allow anyone to stand still, asking them to keep on walking and separating people who were walked together. The witnesses asked not to be identified for fear of government reprisals.

Just before the clashes, an Iranian woman who lives in Tehran said there was a heavy police and security presence in another square in central Tehran. She asked not to be identified because she was worried about government reprisals.

"There is a massive, massive, massive police presence," she told The Associated Press in Cairo by telephone. "Their presence was really intimidating."

Iran says at least 17 protesters have been killed in a week of unrest so far after the electoral council declared hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad winner of the June 12 election. His main challenger, Mir Hossein Mousavi, charged the election was a fraud and insists he is the true winner. His followers have been staging near-daily rallies, at least one of them drawing a massive crowds of hundreds of thousands.

Severe restrictions on reporters have made it almost impossible to independently verify any reports on demonstrations, clashes and casualties. Iran has ordered reporters for foreign news agencies to stay in their offices, barring them from any reporting on the streets.

The country's highest electoral authority, the Guardian Council, acknowledged on Monday that there were voting irregularities in 50 electoral districts, the most serious official admission so far of problems in the election. But the council insisted the problems do not affect the outcome of the vote.

Earlier Monday, the elite Revolutionary Guard issued its sternest warning so far in the post-election crisis. It warned protesters to "be prepared for a resolution and revolutionary confrontation with the Guards, Basij and other security forces and disciplinary forces" if they continue their near-daily rallies.

The Basij, a plainclothes militia under the command of the Revolutionary Guard, have been used to quell street protests that erupted after the election result was announced.

The Guard statement ordered demonstrators to "end the sabotage and rioting activities" and said their resistance is a "conspiracy" against Iran. On Sunday, acting joint chief of the armed forces Gen. Gholam Ali Rashid issued a thinly veiled warning to Mousavi, saying "we are determined to confront plots by enemies aimed at creating a rift in the nation."

Mousavi vowed Sunday night to keep up the protests, in defiance of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who holds ultimate

power in Iran. In a sermon to tens of thousands on Friday, Khamenei said demonstrators must stop their street protests or face the consequences and he firmly backed Ahmadinejad's victory.

"The country belongs to you," Mousavi's latest statement said. "Protesting lies and fraud is your right."

Mousavi's Web site called Monday for supporters to turn on their car lights in the late afternoon as a sign of protest.

Mousavi's latest statements posted on his Web site also warned supporters of danger ahead, and said he would stand by the protesters "at all times." But he said he would "never allow anybody's life to be endangered because of my actions" and called for pursuing fraud claims through an independent board.

The former prime minister, a longtime loyalist of the Islamic government, also called the Basij and military "our brothers" and "protectors of our revolution and regime." He may be trying to constrain his followers' demands before they pose a mortal threat to Iran's system of limited democracy constrained by Shiite clerics, who have ultimate authority.

Mousavi ally and former president Mohammad Khatami said in a statement that "protest in a civil manner and avoiding disturbances in the definite right of the people and all must respect that."

Britain's Foreign Office said it was pulling staffers' dependents out because "the families of our staff have been unable to carry out their lives as usual."

In Washington, President Barack Obama said he does not want to become a scapegoat for Iran's leadership as the postelection upheaval continues, but Republicans continued criticizing him for being overly cautious.

The Czech EU presidency summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to reject claims by Iran that the 27-nation bloc has been interfering in its internal affairs.

Iran state media reported at least 10 people were killed in the fiercest clashes yet on Saturday and 100 were injured.

A graphic video that appears to show a young woman dying within minutes after she was shot during Saturday's demonstrations has become the iconic image seen by millions around the world on video-sharing sites such as YouTube.

Police said Monday that 457 people were arrested on Saturday alone, but did not say how many have been arrested throughout the week of turmoil.

The country's highest electoral authority agreed last week to investigate some opposition complaints of problems in the voting. The Guardian Council said Monday it found irregularities in 50 voting districts, but that this has no effect on election outcome. Council spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei was quoted on the state TV Web site as saying that its probe showed more votes were cast in these constituencies than there were registered voters.

But this "has no effect on the result of the elections," he said.

Mousavi has demanded that the election result be annulled and a new vote held.

Khatami said "taking complaints to bodies that are required to protect people's rights, but are themselves subject to criticism, is not a solution"—effectively accusing the Council of collusion in vote fraud.

The government has intensified a crackdown on independent media—expelling a BBC correspondent, suspending the Dubai-based network Al-Arabiya and detaining at least two local journalists for U.S. magazines.

English-language state television said an exile group known as the People's Mujahedeen had a hand in the street violence and

broadcast what it said were confessions of British-controlled agents.

The exile group, also called the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, is the military wing of the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran. The council says it is dedicated to a democratic, secular government in Iran, but the military wing has been blacklisted by the United States and the European Union as a terrorist organization.

The Foreign Ministry lashed out at foreign media and Western governments, with ministry spokesman Hasan Qashqavi accusing them of "a racial mentality that Iranians belong to the Third World."

"Meddling by Western powers and international media is unacceptable," he said at a news conference shown on state TV, taking particular aim at French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

"How can a Western president, like the French president, ask for nullification of Iranian election results?" Qashqavi said. "I regret such comments."

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to talk a bit about health care, since that seems to be a major issue also of concern to all Americans. Today is June 22, 2009. Millions of Americans still lack health insurance coverage, and we need to pass reforms that help them get coverage. Yet more time has gone by with no plan from the majority. While we wait, how many more people will forgo needed care today? How many emergency rooms will have to care for Americans who could have received care earlier, and at a lower cost, from a medical professional if they had insurance?

The majority talks about reform and how critical it is to move with urgency. They also assert that the economic recovery depends on health care reform. So many of us would like to know: Where is the plan? It is impossible for us to move forward in any manner, let alone with urgency, if we do not even have a complete bill.

On Tuesday June 9, after months of waiting, the majority in the HELP Committee, on which I serve, offered a partial list of health reform proposals, indicating that the missing pieces would be shortly forthcoming. The majority quickly pulled together a roundtable to discuss a wide variety of issues. They even held some walk-throughs with our side on issues of prevention, quality, et cetera.

The following week we were told we would receive the missing pieces "soon" or "early last week." Then we were told they would come forward with the missing pieces "this past Friday."

Now it is Monday and we have received nothing. While we have waited, the Congressional Budget Office told us what many of us had expected and feared about this bill: The cost of the bill would have a cost exponentially higher than many had predicted. In fact, the incomplete bill would cost over \$1 trillion, and this cost would only cover one-third of the 48 million Americans who are currently uninsured.

So we wait and wait and wait, having no details of the much-wanted government plan or the proposal regarding penalties the other side wants to impose on employers who either cannot provide health coverage or who are not able to provide the coverage according to the government dictate.

Now we hear this Friday might be the day we have a chance to see what they have been working on behind closed doors. Friday also happens to be the day of the Fourth of July recess. The President and congressional Democrats have told the American people that health care reform legislation must be passed by the Senate prior to the August recess.

Given that we will not have the text of the legislation prior to the Fourth of July recess, I am skeptical that the HELP Committee and the Finance Committee will be able to complete their work, combine two possibly divergent bills on the Senate floor, and pass a bill during the 5 weeks remaining in the July work session.

One thing I have found out around here is that we miss a lot of things, but we never miss a recess. The Senate passed the budget blueprint in late April. That included a possible budget reconciliation process for considering health care reform legislation.

One must wonder. One must wonder if the majority is intentionally pushing back the schedule and dragging out this process so that a bipartisan process and solution is not feasible. Under budget reconciliation, which sounds arcane to most Americans, the majority would be allowed to jam this important policy through the Senate with 51 votes instead of the typical 60, with limited time for debate and amendments.

I am left to wonder if this contingency was not planned on all along, to use reconciliation, to muscle through the health reform we all know is desperately needed but to circumvent the normal procedures of the Senate.

I and my colleagues on this side of the aisle continue to await the Democrats' complete bill and their plan to make taxpayers pay for this trillion dollar new government program. So many questions remain until the missing parts of the bill are provided.

When will we get details of the government insurance plan we are told is essential to reform? When will we see what employer health care mandates look like? How much will the complete plan cost? How will it be paid for? Each day the majority fails to provide a complete plan, along with the complete cost and how it will be paid for, is another day that millions of Americans go without health insurance.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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