

is directly engaged in these discussions and is working very hard to meet the concerns raised by Senator KYL and others.

I am encouraged by the process in which we are engaged. Senators need to know it has not been a process of sidestepping a best effort to try to get to a place where we can take up the START treaty in the next days. We still have some issues to try to complete.

Some Senators have expressed the desire to hear from the administration with respect to the Lisbon conference and what modality was arrived at there with respect to deployment. We will make that happen. In addition, the President was sent an additional set of questions just the other day. Those answers are being worked on, and they will be forthcoming.

As long as everybody keeps working in this kind of positive and constructive way, I am hopeful we can live up to our responsibility.

I call the attention of Senators to the Washington Post today, an editorial op-ed written by former Republican Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger, and Colin Powell. They clearly say: We urge the Senate to ratify the New START treaty signed by President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. They express their reasons why they believe it is important for us to do so.

It is my hope that the conversations we are having and the process that is in place is going to produce a positive outcome. We will certainly work in good faith to try to make that happen in the next days and hours.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING MAYOR BILL GORMAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, in October a dear friend of mine—and of the Commonwealth of Kentucky—passed away peacefully. And today I wish to pay tribute to Mayor Bill Gorman, of Hazard, KY, for his warm and generous spirit and, above all, for his faithfulness to the mission of promoting, defending, and serving the people of Hazard.

Mayor Gorman was born about a decade after the railroad came, when Haz-

ard was first opening up to the world. He saw the floods and the cleanup, the coal carnivals, and the stores on Main Street come and go. He saw Senators and Congressmen, and Presidential candidates. He saw it all. And he could have followed it all too, right out of Hazard. But he didn't. Because Hazard was the only place he ever wanted to be.

The story goes that Bill was vacationing down in Florida in 1977, when somebody threw his name in the race for mayor. From that point on, being mayor was all Bill ever wanted. He never drew a paycheck. And he was never off the clock—as anyone who used to get his late-night phone calls can attest. He was always thinking of how to move Hazard forward, how to make life better for the people of Hazard and the surrounding region. Whether it was extending the water lines or building a pool where the kids in town could learn to swim, or expanding the hospital, or improving and expanding educational opportunities, he always had a vision and a plan to make it happen. And he usually did.

He attended every ribbon cutting, no matter how small. And he took everybody's calls—even at home—and there were a lot of them—because his number was always listed in the phone book. He treated everyone with dignity and respect, and he wanted to talk to everybody, whether you were the President of the United States—and Bill knew a lot of them or somebody down on their luck.

One of Bill's lunch buddies remembers being with him once when he got a phone call from an elderly widow who lived in one of the public housing units in town. Her health was deteriorating, she said, and she wondered if he could help her move from the fourth floor to the first floor. Mayor Gorman got the building manager on the phone immediately and asked if anything was opening up on the first floor. There was. And that woman got her wish. Moving floors was important to that lady, so it was important to Mayor Gorman.

Another time a group of city workmen dropped into a local restaurant for a bite to eat after working around the clock after a snow storm. When the bill came, they were told it had already been paid. It was Mayor Gorman, but they didn't know it. He made sure of it. He did that kind of thing all the time, never flaunting it, just lifting folks up—from high school kids going off to college to an elderly woman who needed a hand—he was there.

For Mayor Gorman, no problem was too little or too big. He was as concerned about the little things as he was determined to accomplish the big things, and he was a master at both. He never boasted. He just did good. It is a rare breed these days. But Bill Gorman was a rare man, a gentle soul who devoted himself to his mission in life and who enjoyed every minute of it. Not that he wasn't feisty. If you ever want-

ed to pick a fight with Mayor Gorman, say something about the people of eastern Kentucky; he would take you on. And the people of Perry County loved him for it.

He was proud of his people and his heritage. And he was proud of the coal industry that built this region. As it happens, I got to know Bill before he was a mountain legend. Long before either of us had set out on our political careers, and I was working as the youth chairman for Marlow Cook, who was running for the Senate that year. When they sent me out on the road, they told me to look up a guy named Bill Gorman when I got to Hazard. He was the guy, they said. And they were right. And when the two of us got together for the last time at his home this past August, 42 years later, he was still the guy.

Washington may not be a very popular place these days, but Hazard is a pretty popular place in Washington. Walk into any office—whether it is a staffer or a U.S. President—and you are liable to see a Duke or Duchess of Hazard citation on the wall. I am told that even Pope John Paul II was named a Duke of Hazard, which is appropriate, since Bill used to say he was born a Baptist, was adopted by the Catholics, and would die a Presbyterian. Like a lot of politicians, he was covering all his bases.

Mayor Gorman once said that government is only as good as the people who run it. If that is true, it is likely Hazard will never be as good as it was when Mayor Gorman was with us. But I think we owe it to him to make it so—to live our lives with the same dedication and spirit of service he did. I am blessed to have known him. He is dearly missed.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday we watched a number of Democratic Senators come to the Senate floor and express their exasperation at not being able to do what they want to do around here. It is quite astonishing.

Let's face it, most Americans are not particularly interested in the things Democratic leaders have put at the top of their to-do list. They thought they put a restraining order on Democratic partisan priorities early last month. It is time Democrats put the priorities of the voters first.

In a couple of weeks the lights go out around here unless we do something to stop it. At the end of the month every taxpayer suffers a pay cut unless we stop it. But Democrats would rather spend the Senate's limited time on don't ask, don't tell and immigration. They would rather come down to the floor to talk about filibuster rules.

So they still do not get it, and that is why Republicans are insisting we put these things aside and finish the most important and urgent legislation before time runs out.

Fifteen million Americans are out of work. More than 3 million of those jobs have been lost since the stimulus was passed. So with all due respect for the Democrats' economic theories, the \$1 trillion stimulus, endless government spending, and bailouts do not appear to have worked.

We have tried their way. Now it is time to try what businesses and families are asking us to do. Ask any business owner in America what we could do to help them start hiring again, and they will tell you the best thing we can do is give them certainty about their taxes.

The DREAM Act does not create jobs. Filibuster rules do not create jobs. Wasting time on votes to raise taxes will not create jobs.

Right now, House Democrats are getting ready to send us a bill on taxes they know will not pass in the Senate. This is a purely political exercise. Just consider what a number of Senate Democrats have said about this issue. Here is what one of their newest Members said just a few weeks ago:

I would extend them—

Referring to tax cuts—
for everyone.

Here is another one from September:

I don't think it makes sense to raise any federal taxes during the uncertain economy we are struggling through.

The first comment was from Senator COONS. The second comment was from Senator LIEBERMAN.

Another said:

I support extending all of the expiring tax cuts until . . . the nation's economy is in better shape, and perhaps longer, because raising taxes in a weak economy could impair recovery. Continuing all of the tax cuts could provide certainty for families and businesses. . . .

That was Senator BEN NELSON.

I don't think they ought to be drawing a distinction at \$250,000.

That was Senator JIM WEBB.

The economy is very weak right now. Raising taxes will lower consumer demand at a time when we want people putting more money into the economy.

That was Senator EVAN BAYH.

Raising taxes during an economic downturn, one said, "would be counterproductive." That was Senator KENT CONRAD.

So what is the problem? It seems to me we have solid bipartisan agreement on the right thing to do for the economy and for job creation. Who is holding it up, and what do they have against helping businesses and creating jobs?

It is time to focus. We have tried the tax-and-spend route. It has not worked. Why don't we listen to the voters? Let's fund the government while reducing spending and prevent a massive tax hike on every American taxpayer.

Look, we have bipartisan support for this in the Senate and bipartisan opposition to raising taxes on anyone. As the President said earlier this week, after our meeting at the White House:

I think everybody understands that the American people want us to focus on their jobs, not ours. They want us to come together around strategies to accelerate the recovery and get Americans back to work.

I agree with the President. Why don't we get this done?

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NEW START TREATY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, a number of my colleagues and I are coming to the floor today to discuss a critical national security issue that Senator KERRY has already referenced in his remarks on the Senate floor. It is an issue that requires strong bipartisan action by the Senate; that is, the ratification of the New START treaty.

As we enter into the last weeks of the 111th Congress, there is no doubt we have some significant work remaining on a number of important priorities. But we have come to the Senate floor today to say that national security and the threat posed by nuclear weapons also requires our urgent consideration this year.

After more than 20 Senate hearings, more than 31 witnesses, 900 questions and answers, and nearly 8 months of thorough consideration—including additional time during the August recess for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to consider the treaty—it is now time to vote on New START.

The treaty is squarely in the national security interests of the United States. It reduces the number of nuclear weapons aimed at American cities and allows for the return of critical onsite inspections lost when the previous START treaty expired. Ratifying the treaty would reestablish American leadership on nuclear security and give the United States increased leverage to curb nuclear proliferation around the globe.

This treaty in no way interferes with our ability to have a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear arsenal. In fact, in response to Senate concerns, the Obama administration has committed unprecedented amounts of money to ensure this modernization piece. Just yesterday, the three directors of America's nuclear labs wrote in a letter that they were "very pleased" with the administration's commitment and believe this commitment provides "adequate support to sustain the safety, security, reliability and effectiveness of America's nuclear deterrent."

Another concern that has been raised is the effect the New START treaty may have on some of our closest NATO

allies. As chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Europe, I am intensely focused on meeting our NATO security commitments and defending and protecting our allies in NATO and beyond. I agree we need to remain vigilant in support of our allies, especially those in Central and Eastern Europe that border Russia and have strong, legitimate security concerns. But a failure to ratify this treaty could result in deteriorating U.S.-Russian bilateral relations and adversely affect the security of our partners in Europe.

I was pleased to see, just last week, at the NATO summit in Lisbon that all 28 NATO allies expressed their unanimous support for Senate ratification of the New START treaty. New START is in America's interests, and as our allies in Europe have stated clearly, New START is also in their interests.

Finally, a failure to ratify this treaty could have serious negative effects on our ability to meet the nuclear challenge posed by Iran. The failure to ratify the START treaty would undercut America's ability to marshal international support and exert increasing pressure on Iran. As we heard Senator KERRY reference earlier this morning, just today in the Washington Post five former Secretaries of State of the past five Republican administrations made a compelling case linking this treaty and the threats posed by Iran and North Korea.

The consensus is clear. New START is in our national security interests, and we should not wait any longer to ratify this treaty. Our military and our intelligence communities do not want us to wait. Our allies abroad and countless foreign policy experts, Republican and Democrat, across the political spectrum do not want the Senate to wait. The American people do not want us to wait.

We should follow in the footsteps of the Senate's strong bipartisan arms control history and ratify the New START treaty this year.

Madam President, I yield the floor to my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I commend my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN.

I am proud to join my colleagues this morning in support of the New START accord. Next Sunday will mark 1 year since American inspectors were on the ground in Russia. We need to vote on the resolution of ratification for this important treaty because it will indeed make America safer. Without ratification of this treaty, we are less safe and less secure. We have to maintain what we have always maintained in this country as it relates to our arsenal: a safe, secure, and effective nuclear arsenal. This treaty is consistent with that goal.

The agreement provides for predictability, transparency, and stability in the U.S.-Russian nuclear relationship.