bill through their committee and bringing it to the Senate floor. I appreciate very much the vote of 93 Senators who voted last night to move the bill forward. I think it is a very important example of bipartisan support. I hope we will be able to move this forward to a simple up-or-down vote this week and that we will not see extraneous issues or obstruction or delay involving this bill. This is very simple and very straightforward. I am hopeful we will be able to move it forward and accomplish this goal.

We need to make sure it is very clear that the same laws to which everyone else adheres are held to be true for Members of Congress. It is also important to note that our bill creates new reporting requirements for Members of Congress and their staffs, with the reports available online, with a searchable database. That is very important for transparency. It asks the Government Accounting Office to investigate the so-called ''political intelligence consultants'' who contact Members and staff to get information on how legislation could affect their business clients or stock prices.

This bill is very simple and very clearcut. We are all engaged in conversations on a daily basis that make information available to us, and we need to make it very clear as to our responsibilities for handling that information and operating in the public interest.

So I am hopeful we will be able to keep this bill focused on the intended goal so we can actually get it passed, get it over to the House, and have the House do the same. It is important that while there may be a number of different issues we all care about that we would like to offer through amendments, we will be able to keep this focused on the issue in front of us and that we will be able to get this done as quickly as possible.

Our constituents are certainly looking to us to be able to do this. It would be an excellent way to start the new year by working together on a bipartisan basis to close a loophole that has created confusion about the responsibilities, the ethics, and the legal responsibilities for Senators as it relates to insider information and potential insider trading.

So I am hopeful we can get this done. I appreciate the work of everyone who has been involved in helping to get us to this point. Hopefully, by the end of the week we will have something passed that we can all feel very good about.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, how many amendments are pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 15 amendments pending.

Mr. REID. We started this morning at about 11 o'clock. We had to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to this bill, which was supposedly a bill everyone wanted. It is too bad we had to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed, but we did. We have been working all day to set up rollcall votes—all day. We thought we had one a few minutes ago, but a couple Senators came over and said: There will not be a vote on that unless I am guaranteed votes on mine—even though their votes are totally not relevant or germane to the subject matter.

I appreciate Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator SUSAN COLLINS. They are fine legislators. They understand what this body is all about and how important this legislation is and how important they are as managers of this bill. So they are negotiating on several of the amendments.

But at some point, Mr. President, this becomes ridiculous. To have Senators come over here and say they are not going to allow a vote on an amendment unless they are guaranteed votes on nongermane, nonrelevant amendments? Then people criticize me for not having an open amendment process? It becomes a circus. This is not the Senate that we have had or should have. At some point, we need cooperation from Members on both sides of the aisle to set up votes and dispose of these amendments and move on to passage of the bill.

I do not want to have to file cloture on this bill. I just want to alert everyone, if we continue the way we are going, where people are saying: You cannot have a vote on any amendment unless I am guaranteed a vote on my nongermane, nonrelevant amendment—what am I supposed to do to protect this body?

So I would hope the night will bring some common sense to some Senators. It is really—I will not say embarrassing, but it is a little bit, to these two fine Senators who have worked together for years on a bipartisan basis on some of the most sensitive issues this country has, protecting the homeland. We could not have two better people working on a bill to create some bipartisanship. But this is unfortunate and unfair and not right, and I, as the leader, am not going to let this continue forever.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank the leader for his statement and thank him for his patience. I know people are critical of the way Senator REID has been forced to operate to try to get anything done, but if you go through a day like we have gone through, you understand why he has had no choice.

Mr. PAUL, the Senator from Kentucky, offered an amendment. We had a very thoughtful negotiation with him about modifying the amendment. We came to a meeting of the minds and were ready to go, and then another Member said: I will not consent to you voting on Senator PAUL's modified amendment unless you promise me a vote.

As Senator REID well knows, in the early years I was here this kind of behavior sometimes happened at just before the final vote on a bill or perhaps before a recess was about to be declared. But to conduct oneself in this way at the very beginning of a debate on a bill about which there is bipartisan support—yesterday, it was clear on the cloture motion, only two Senators voted against it. It is a real good government bill, and to hold it up in this way is frustrating.

I quote the majority leader, who is a straighter talker: It is ridiculous.

So at the end of a long day, we have nothing to show for our labor. I apologize to the Members of the Senate. But it requires some reasonableness from our colleagues to proceed.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavoidably detained for the rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2038, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge, STOCK, Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on the motion to invoke cloture. I cosponsored the STOCK Act on December 14, 2011.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote No. 3 on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2038.

Had I been present I would have voted ''yea'' for rollcall vote No. 3 and I ask that the RECORD reflect that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING KNOX COLLEGE ON 175 YEARS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Knox College in Galesburg, IL, on the 175th anniversary of its founding.