

and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil by U.S. producers using American workers?

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 9,391,000 barrels a day.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I will have a unanimous-consent request momentarily with regard to calling up Calendar No. 84, S. 924, the Department of Defense authorization bill. We have been in communication with the Democratic leadership and Senators on both sides about our desire to call up this legislation. We do have some concerns on both sides about some provisions that are in or not in it. But I want to withhold on making that request just for one moment.

I had, also, as a second consideration, hoped that we could get up the intelligence authorization bill this afternoon. We are asking the Armed Services Committee to continue to work on that and consider that as something we would like to try to do this week if at all possible. But we are still working to get that cleared.

We will ask consent later on this afternoon to go to S. 923, which would deny veterans benefits to persons convicted of Federal capital offenses. I believe we can get that done this afternoon. Senator SPECTER has been working on that. I understand there are Senators on the other side of the aisle having some input. I believe we can get something worked out on that this afternoon. It is something certainly we should do.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— S. 924

Mr. LOTT. With that, Mr. President, I do ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 84, S. 924, the DOD authorization bill.

Mr. GRAMM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. I regret we have had this objection to proceeding on this very important legislation, the Defense authorization bill.

The Armed Services Committee in the Senate has worked very hard on this legislation. It is urgently needed to this extent: Until we can get the authorization bill through the complete process, it makes it difficult for the defense appropriations subcommittee to do its work. So timing is important.

We would like to get this authorization bill done at the earliest possible opportunity so it can get on into conference and so that the defense appropriators will know what the authorization numbers are. It is important for our country.

It is my understanding that a major issue of contention is still being discussed with respect to the depots and bases that could be affected by it or will be affected by it in Texas, in Oklahoma, in California, in Utah, and Georgia. There are a lot of Senators on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of this issue that are very concerned about how it was handled in the committee.

So I have urged those on both sides of the aisle to work together and see if we cannot come up with something that is acceptable to both sides. It will not be easy. This is not a new issue. We went through this in a way in the base closure rounds.

We had debate and amendments on it last year. So everybody knows the arguments on both sides. I still believe that there is a way that we can come to some compromise language that would allow us to go forward.

The Senators are exercising their right to object to waiving the 2-day rule or calling up the bill to go straight to debate and amendments. But I hope that they will not do this for very long, because we have our work to do.

So I understand there is a meeting that will meet again, perhaps today, this afternoon at 5:30, on this issue. We had a preliminary meeting on it in my office yesterday. I will be glad to work with both sides. I want a resolution to be found. But I am not inclined, as I discussed with the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, the acting minority leader, here—I want Senators to be able to exercise their rights, and I want to be helpful with that, but I also think at some point, if you cannot work out something, if you do not work out something, then we will have to use the rules of the Senate to move this very important legislation forward. But I would like everybody to get an opportunity first to work together, and you know we are losing some time here. Every day that goes by that we do not take it up, it means that it already looks like it could be the week of July 7, 8, before we could actually get this legislation completed. I just wanted to make those points.

I understand Senators on the floor now would like to be heard on this issue. I would like to yield the floor so that they could make their statements.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield just for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The acting minority leader.

Mr. FORD. Once the statements are made by those who have objected to bringing up the Department of Defense authorization bill, how long will they go, and what kind of schedule would we have? How soon will we get to the so-called veterans bill?

Mr. LOTT. As soon as we can get the agreement worked out. I believe they are working on it right now. We hope by the middle of the afternoon we will have something ready to go on that.

Mr. FORD. Put us in morning business?

Mr. LOTT. We will probably have morning business, but I do know also there are Senators, a number of Senators, who probably want to speak on this issue at hand. Maybe we will let them talk a little bit and they will feel better and we will find a way to move this bill forward.

Mr. FORD. The leader knows and we all know at some point it will.

Mr. LOTT. Right.

Mr. FORD. It is the will that will move it.

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, my colleague from Connecticut asked if he could take 3 minutes. I am happy to give him 3 minutes.

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

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair. I particularly thank my friend and colleague from Texas for her graciousness, and her graciousness will allow this Senator to find his way to his daughter's school to watch the moving-up ceremony. I appreciate my good friend, the Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I am very pleased to hear that the daughter of the Senator from Connecticut is having her moving-up ceremony, because she is a special friend of mine and I think she is a potential future Senator from Connecticut. So I am glad that he is going to be able to make that important ceremony. He will give her my regards, I hope.

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, yesterday we passed the State Department Authorization Act by a vote of 90 to 5. Today there is comment on the bill that we passed yesterday in the Washington Post regarding particularly the sections of that legislation that deal