

bills for the American people and I hope we can continue the good progress that we have made over the last 3 weeks. When you look back at what we have been able to get through the Senate, in terms of education, the NATO treaty enlargement, and also last week the IRS reform—if we can have another week and complete the week with the DOD Department of Defense authorization bill I think we can feel very good about what we have accomplished over the last month.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The Senator from Mississippi.

AMERICAN MISSILE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, let me say, first of all, that I appreciate very much the majority leader calling up the missile defense bill on yesterday. At his authorization and direction, a cloture motion was filed on the motion to proceed to consider that bill when an objection was raised by the ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Committee and the ranking Democrat, Senator LEVIN, on the International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee that I chair.

Last year, we had a series of hearings looking into the growing proliferation problem in the development of weapons of mass destruction and missile systems to deliver those weapons by countries that many in our Nation probably weren't aware were developing the sophistication in long-range missile systems that were being developed.

I think yesterday the announcement in India of the detonation of a nuclear device as a test confirms once again what a dangerous environment we are in, in terms of proliferation of capabilities, of having nuclear weapons, of having missile systems that can deliver those weapons over a long range. To put that in context yesterday, Pakistan, just a few weeks ago, tested a new missile that our security analysts and our intelligence agencies weren't aware that they had—another example of how we cannot predict with any degree of certainty or accuracy how soon countries are going to develop missile systems, nuclear weapons with the capability of delivering those weapons systems over long ranges. The Pakistani missile that was tested was a 1,500-kilometer range missile—five times greater in capability than a report that was filed by the Defense Department said that Pakistan had in November of 1997. Think about that.

We get an annual report from the Defense Department using the intelligence capabilities of our CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency—all of the resources that our country has, to put together this report for the Congress. And in November of 1997 they said that Pakistan had in its inventory a 300-kilometer range missile, and then in April they

test a 1,500-kilometer range missile. What has happened? They have had assistance from other countries. Some say it was China who provided the technology and wherewithal to come up with this new, longer range missile. Some say it was North Korea. Pakistan says it was developed from within with their own technology, their own scientists.

Whatever the reason and however this came to be, it is alarming, and now we see India reacting to that new development by testing a nuclear weapon that is twice as powerful as the atomic bomb that was used in World War II by the United States against Japan.

The point is, this is a very, very dangerous situation that we see developing in that part of the world, but in other countries, too. In Iran. We have seen demonstrated in Iraq the capacity to almost put a satellite in orbit with a missile launch vehicle 10 years ago. That surprised the United States. That surprised our intelligence-gathering agencies.

I am hopeful that the Senate will notice that the time has come for us to stop playing politics with missile defense and national security and work together in a bipartisan way to develop and deploy, as soon as technology permits, a national missile defense system to protect the security of the United States.

We will have that vote on cloture, as the majority leader pointed out, on Wednesday—cloture on the motion to proceed to consider the bill, not on the bill itself. It will still be open for amendment. It will still be open for debate by Senators who want to discuss this issue, but I hope the Senate will invoke cloture so that we can proceed to consider the bill, to discuss the issue further, particularly in view of these developing events that confirm what a dangerous proliferation situation we find ourselves in in the world today, and we are defenseless against long-range or intercontinental ballistic missiles.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes. Under the previous order, the Senator from Maryland is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Presiding Officer.

(The remarks of Ms. MIKULSKI and Mr. DASCHLE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2064 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there is no one from the Republican side of the aisle on the floor at this moment, so I do not want to propound the request until someone is available. But I do want to put our colleagues on notice that I would like very much to be able to propound a unanimous consent request within the next few minutes that would do two things: First, it would ask that Senator D'AMATO be recognized to offer a bill regarding inpatient hospital care for breast cancer with a time limit of 2 hours for debate on the bill, with no amendments or motions in order thereto, and that when all time is used or yielded back, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the D'Amato bill, and that immediately upon disposition of the D'Amato bill, the Senate then proceed to the immediate consideration of the Daschle-Kennedy Patient Protection Act with a time limit of 2 hours for debate, with no amendments or motions in order thereto, and that when all time is used or yielded back, the Senate proceed to vote on the passage of the bill with all time equally divided and controlled in the usual form, and that the above occur without intervening action or debate. I would ask that those bills begin to be considered at 11 o'clock.

As I said, Mr. President, I will not ask unanimous consent at this time simply in deference to our colleagues. But let me again explain what it is we are attempting to do here. It is our hope this week, in a very limited time-frame, that we can pass two bills of great concern and importance to this country, first and foremost, a bill that many of us have cosponsored dealing with the need to protect patients in an array of different health circumstances that they face. More and more, the American people are saying they are victimized, not assisted, by HMOs. More and more, they are saying that managed care is not working as it is supposed to. More and more, they are saying that we are facing some critical decisions that we must make if we are going to ensure that managed care and HMOs work right.

Day after day, our caucus has come to the Senate floor recognizing the importance of calling the attention of this country to victims of our current managed care system. These victims have lost their health, and in some cases, their lives as a result of very critical decisions being made erroneously by people sitting at computers instead of by doctors and nurses in the hospital rooms and clinics of this country.

We have introduced legislation that would provide protections to patients. It recognizes that in this HMO, managed care environment we have to do a lot better job of focusing on patients,