

Mr. CORZINE. 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. BENNETT. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. BENNETT. Parliamentary inquiry: What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 8 minutes remaining in morning business that the Senator may consume or yield back.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, given that opportunity, I will consume a few of those minutes to respond to the conversations about Iraq.

I was in this body when we went to S-407 and heard the intelligence community brief us on the manufacture of chemical weapons taking place at what appeared to be a pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan. We were told repeatedly by high officials of the administration this was a plant producing weapons of mass destruction, chemical weapons; it had to be taken out by a cruise missile. Some of us asked to see the intelligence. We asked to know exactly what it was that led the administration to believe this was in fact a chemical plant.

As we were given that intelligence, I found myself questioning it. I walked away from that meeting saying to myself: This is a little bit thin. There is not a lot of substance here. But administration officials were very emphatic in saying, no, we have gone through the intelligence. It is very firm. We have to take this out.

The administration in this instance, of course, was the Clinton administration. The intelligence being presented to us was being presented by Secretary Cohen, the Secretary of Defense. We now know the intelligence was wrong. This was not, in fact, a factory for weapons of mass destruction. It was, rather, a pharmaceutical plant, just as the people said it was.

We blew it up nonetheless. We killed some people with the cruise missiles we threw in there. After recognizing the intelligence was wrong, we apologized, as indeed we should.

The question I would ask those who are now raising the issue about intelligence in Iraq would be this: Would they suggest the result of our actions in Iraq called for an American apology? Are they suggesting we should apologize to the people of Iraq for having taken out Saddam Hussein and, when we find him, replace him in power?

This is a man who killed 300,000 of his own people. We have uncovered the mass graves. This is a man responsible for over 1 million additional deaths in the two wars he started with his neighbors.

This is a man who has destroyed his own country. This is a man who has raped and brutalized those of his citi-

zens whom he has not killed. This is a man who was willing to pay \$25,000 to anyone who would wrap himself in dynamite and blow himself up, as long as he took some others with him. This is a man who had weapons of mass destruction and has used them against his own people. This is a man whose actions are clearly in violation of the U.N. Resolution 1441.

Am I supposed to apologize for having supported an effort to remove him just because some people are challenging the details of the intelligence that led us to this action? I do not apologize for one moment for supporting the war or for supporting the supplemental to pay for the war, because the consequences of the action we have taken have liberated over 20 million people and made the neighborhood in which Saddam Hussein lived substantially safer for all of the neighbors around him.

This is not similar to the case of the blowing up of a pharmaceutical plant in Sudan because the intelligence was faulty, which took place in the Clinton administration. This is an action that history will look back upon and say we did the right thing.

With that, I yield back the remainder of morning business time.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

AGRICULTURAL, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to H.R. 2673, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2673) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken, that amendment No. 2072, which is the text of Calendar No. 216, S. 1427, the Senate committee-reported bill, be inserted in lieu thereof, that the bill, as amended, be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendments, and that no points of order be waived by reason of this agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I am pleased to present the Agriculture appropriations subcommittee report to

the full Senate and to recommend passage of this bill. I am very grateful to the ranking member, Senator KOHL, and his professional staff.

It has been one of the most satisfying experiences of my service in the Senate to see how Senator KOHL's staff and our staff have been integrated and have performed as truly professional staffs, regardless of any partisan affiliation. I think one of the reasons the bill moved as smoothly as it did through subcommittee and full committee is that the staffs have worked together in such a professional way. I am grateful to Senator KOHL for his wisdom in the people he has chosen, and I am grateful to them for the professional way in which they have handled it.

The bill is at the 302(b) discretionary allocation level of \$17.005 billion. That is \$873 million less than the fiscal 2003 level, which was \$17.878 billion.

It is always difficult to bring an appropriations bill to the floor that has an allocation lower than the previous year and, in this case, it is almost \$1 billion lower. That has made the challenge of putting the bill together extremely difficult and, once again, underscores the accomplishments of the professional staff as they have dealt with this challenge.

To run through the various titles of the bill and help people understand what we are talking about, I will give you the following numbers.

On title I, dealing with agricultural programs, we have a total of \$26.776 billion, of which \$20.658 billion is mandatory. This is \$1.318 million more than fiscal year 2003.

On food safety, it is \$783.761 million, which is an increase of \$28.9 million over fiscal 2003. The Agricultural Research Service is at \$1.092 billion. The Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service is at \$1.118 billion. The Animal and Plant Inspection Service, APHIS, is at \$711 million. That takes care of title I.

Title II, conservation programs, come in at a total of \$973 million, which is \$48 million less than fiscal 2003. Conservation operations are at \$826.635 million.

Title III, rural economic and community development programs, the total appropriated funds will be \$2.588 billion, which will support a loan level of \$4.353 billion. Single-family housing is at the \$4.084 billion level. The Rural Community Advancement Program is at \$769.479 million. Distance learning, telemedicine, and broadband is at \$685.963 million.

Title IV, domestic food programs, there is a total of \$44.088 billion, of which \$39.164 billion is mandatory. This is \$2.197 billion more than fiscal 2003. Food stamps will be funded at \$27.745 billion. WIC, Women, Infants, and Children, will be funded at \$4.639 billion.

Title V, foreign assistance and related programs, there is a total of \$1.486 billion, which is \$349 million less than fiscal year 2003, which included supplemental funding of \$369 million.