

we announced yesterday that there will be no rollcall votes today. We recognize people's schedules are complex and people are coming back but that people are literally all over the country right now and waiting on House action. Therefore, we felt it would be next to impossible to have a rollcall vote today and so we let people know yesterday.

Further, we are in discussions and it is still possible for us to consider the intelligence reform conference report without the need for a rollcall vote. That is under discussion, and we are talking to all our Members. I did want to mention that publicly early on so we can continue that discussion over the course of today.

With regard to the schedule, because there is some uncertainty, by necessity, given the fact we must wait on House action before bringing it to a vote, I encourage all Members who wish to speak on this legislation to come to the floor today and speak. Earlier is preferable, in the event that when a vote is scheduled, we would like to move to that vote in a relatively expeditious way.

If we are able to complete or able to clear the conference report, then it is my hope we could pass the measure in short order, and it would be my preference to deal with it on a voice vote, without a rollcall vote, if that is possible and if our colleagues agree to that.

If a vote becomes necessary, then we would, in all likelihood, schedule that vote for sometime tomorrow, and in discussions with the Democratic leadership, we would pick an appropriate time to do that. Again, we will do our best to accommodate all our Members' schedules, and we are working on that right now.

In the interim, there are a few remaining legislative and executive matters we may be able to clear. We have been working on that over the course of yesterday and today, and we will continue to do that. We will process many of those cleared items before we finish our business. We will not be taking up new business. We will be stressing the importance of finishing business for this Congress, and, in all likelihood, we will be doing that by the end of the day tomorrow. We could even finish by the end of the day today. It depends on the House activity.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the acting Democratic leader.

COMPLETING SENATE ACTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the distinguished Republican leader is on the floor, I wish to make a couple of statements. It is good we finished, finally, the bill on which the Presiding Officer worked so hard, the Omnibus

spending bill. It will now be sent to the President. It is a few weeks overdue, but at least it is done right.

The provision dealing with the Internal Revenue Service is out of that bill. We learned how it was put in the bill. I am confident and hopeful that will not happen in the future.

I extend my appreciation to the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, Representative PELOSI, for making sure there was a vote on this measure. It sends a good message to the people of America.

I also extend my congratulations to Senators LIEBERMAN and COLLINS for their brilliant work on this 9/11 bill. We had a true conference on that bill. No one can dispute there was anything done in the darkness of night. The people appointed to that conference committee worked long and hard to come up with what we will vote on either tonight or tomorrow.

There have been times when, on this side, we have complained how the conferences have worked. On that bill, it worked the way it is supposed to work. Senators LIEBERMAN and COLLINS have worked well together. This legislation, while imperfect, is still in keeping with the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and the American people are going to be safer as soon as this legislation is signed by the President.

I say to my distinguished colleague, the Republican leader, on our side the only two requests for speeches I have on the 9/11 bill are Senator LEAHY, who wants to speak for a relatively short period of time, and Senator BYRD, who will want to speak for a fairly long period of time.

In addition, I have had requests from Senator DORGAN and Senator GRAHAM of Florida that they want to be able to speak sometime during the day as in morning business.

Those are the only indications we have today on this side of the aisle. As I indicated, Senator BYRD may want to speak for an extended period of time. I do not know if that means an hour, 2 hours, or 3 hours, whatever it is. We will check with him and find out when he will be able to speak.

It is my understanding we could get the bill from the House sometime as early as this afternoon. If that is the case, then I hope there is a decision made by those who, in the past, have said they want a vote on this measure whether they are going to require a vote. If they do, as I indicated to the Democrats, some people have to fly a long way to get back here for a vote tomorrow. We will keep the Republican leader advised during the day as to what we have on our side.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as you have just heard from both leaders, requests have been made for people to come to the floor today. Although I know people's schedules are so complicated, we will do our best to keep people posted over the course of the

day and come to the floor and make periodic announcements as to progress being made.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM LEGISLATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to make a statement with regard to what I regard as a truly historic point for our Nation's security as we complete action on the National Security Intelligence Reform Act of 2004.

Those people who have not been directly involved in the negotiations have followed it from afar and are aware that an agreement—some people would say a tentative agreement but an agreement—has been reached on this National Security Intelligence Reform Act.

As just mentioned, it is our understanding that the conference report in all likelihood will be introduced and passed in the House today. The Senate will then address the bill and send it to the President for his signature.

I extend my deep thanks and appreciation to Senators SUSAN COLLINS and JOSEPH LIEBERMAN. Their steady leadership, their continued commitment, and their constant focus on passage of this bill kept the whole process moving forward from day one, and I will review that history shortly. I thank them on behalf of leadership, and America thanks them.

The 9/11 intelligence bill constitutes the most comprehensive and sweeping reform of the intelligence community since the National Security Act of 1947. This bill sets into motion a variety of reforms that over time will greatly improve our Nation's ability to fight the war on terror. I thank Governor Thomas Kean and Representative Lee Hamilton for their dedicated leadership of the 9/11 Commission. They have done a truly outstanding job. Their hard work and thorough analysis forms the basis of the 9/11 bill.

The 9/11 Commission's main recommendations that are addressed in this bill include the following: establishment of a new director of national intelligence who will oversee the intelligence community with enhanced budgetary and personnel authorities; creation of a national counterterrorism center that will coordinate and unify our counterterrorism efforts; ensure effective information sharing and conduct strategic operation planning; initiation of a wide range of other measures to improve information sharing, cooperation and coordination and team work between agencies in the intelligence community, such as the CIA and the FBI; establishment of a civil liberties board and authority to designate an IG; and a provision that will ensure that the chain of command is preserved and that statutory responsibilities on the heads of departments are not abrogated.

The legislation will also improve the functioning of the FBI, enhance our

Nation's transportation security, including aviation and maritime security; improve border and immigration enforcement; and strengthen terrorism prevention by tackling issues ranging from lone wolf terrorists and money laundering to terrorist hoaxes and people providing material support to the terrorists.

The conference report also covers the role of diplomacy, foreign aid, and the military in the war on terrorism and addresses a variety of matters dealing with national preparedness such as infrastructure protection and communications capabilities.

I would be remiss if I did not mention this bill also includes a provision I introduced on the Senate floor, the establishment of a national counterproliferation center. While the national counterterrorism center focuses on the customers and the users of these dangerous technologies and materials, the counterproliferation center will focus on shutting down the supply network and the brokers such as Pakistani nuclear scientist AQ Khan.

We know our enemy is ruthless and is seeking ways to maximize harm against the American people. In order to stop them, we and our allies must detect, deter, halt, and roll back the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and related materials. We cannot allow the terrorists to get their hands on these materials. We know that if they do, they will endeavor to use them. Counterproliferation is critical to fighting and winning the war on terror.

My provision gives the President time and flexibility to establish the center based on the findings of a commission he has looking into the issue of weapons of mass destruction proliferation and to make sure it is well integrated with this proliferation security initiative, the PSI.

Just as we must take the offensive in the global war on terrorism, we must similarly take the offensive in stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Our current nonproliferation efforts are a good defense but they are not sufficient. We need a strong offense. A new national center aggressively pursuing and coordinating counterproliferation is crucial. It is in the bill and will be a part of this legislation.

I am gratified by the bipartisan efforts that have brought this reform, along with the rest of the 9/11 bill, to fruition. We will see that bipartisan support play out in the vote later on this floor and on the floor of the House most likely later today. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Houses of Congress for their unflagging dedication and commitment to America's best interests.

In July, as the Congress was preparing to recess for the summer, the 9/11 Commission released its final report outlining the events leading up to the 9/11 attacks. This report identified a number of serious failings that re-

quired immediate action. It included an extensive section on recommendations to improve our Nation's security. That same day I discussed with the Democratic leader the urgent need for the Senate to act and to act responsibly and begin that action immediately.

Senator DASCHLE and I immediately set the process in motion for the Senate to respond legislatively, and in a bipartisan manner, to the 9/11 Commission's report, and we did just that. Given its central role in monitoring the organization and operations of the Federal Government, we asked the Governmental Affairs Committee to take the lead on this issue.

Beyond the jurisdictional rationale behind this decision, the Democratic leader and I both had great confidence in the ability of its chair, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, and the ranking member, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, to forge that strong bipartisan partnership to closely consult with the other key committees and to deliver a bill to the Senate floor in a deliberate, timely, and bipartisan manner.

To the Nation's great benefit, they succeeded. Over the August recess, the Congress held two dozen committee hearings. We went nonstop. There was no rest. There has been no break in consideration of this legislation since the 9/11 Commission report, even during every recess. Over this August recess, four committees heard testimony from a multiple of witnesses. We had hearings in the Governmental Affairs Committee, the Intelligence Committee, the Commerce Committee, and the Armed Services Committee. Each committee carefully examined the recommendations of the 9/11 report. Some prepared their own bills. Others had their own legislative priorities. Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN then pulled all of this information and all of these recommendations and proposals together and brought a bill to the Senate floor in early October. Major sections of the bill were improved by adding titles taken from a separate bill drafted by Senators MCCAIN and LIEBERMAN.

The McCain-Lieberman comprehensive bill included titles ranging from transportation and aviation security to foreign policy and diplomacy based on the recommendations proposed by the 9/11 Commission. Senator MCCAIN deserves great credit for being a driving force behind the establishment of this Commission and for making sure the Commission's recommendations were considered by the Senate.

The Collins-Lieberman bill was further improved by amendments offered by Senator JOHN WARNER to ensure the intelligence community's support for and link to the warfighter were sustained, by Senator PAT ROBERT to ensure the maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the new organization, and by other Members, such as Senator JON KYL, Senator LEVIN, and numerous others from both parties, to ensure that the Senate got this right.

After 2 weeks of negotiation, debate, and amendments, the Senate voted 96 to 2 on October 6 to overhaul the Nation's intelligence community. Just after that, the Senate passed another important measure that, as the 9/11 Commission urged, made critical reforms in the Senate, this institution's oversight of the intelligence community and homeland security. This effort was successfully led by Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID, and we give our appreciation and thanks to them.

Today, after nearly 2 months of tough and rigorous negotiation with the House, long hours and long weekends poring over the legislative text, we stand on the verge of one of the most significant legislative accomplishments of this Congress. Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN and their staffs have, again, served the Senate well. They made tough concessions, but they did so by keeping our national security front and center at every moment. They labored tirelessly to get this bill done. I appreciate their sacrifice of many hours and weekends in service to our country.

Likewise, Speaker DENNY HASTERT has been constantly engaged in ever pushing Members and staff to reach a solution and to further improve the legislation. He has worked constantly on this bill since early October. Because of his leadership, Speaker HASTERT has earned wide respect for bringing this improved bill to the House floor, and because of his hard work it will easily enjoy majority support.

I must also underscore that none of this would be possible were it not for the superb and unflagging leadership of President Bush. His leadership was bold. His leadership called for meeting the greatest challenge of our time: fighting the war on terror. He has stressed to me personally, again and again, the importance of passing this piece of legislation. I commend the President on his steady commitment to make America safer. On the day of the attacks, President Bush recognized immediately that we were at war. Since then, he has made tough decisions. He has made good decisions. Every day, the President is following through to use the full range of our resources to combat the enemy.

In the 3 years since the 9/11 attacks, we have learned much about our Nation's vulnerabilities, our strengths, and the steps we must take to protect ourselves. During this time, the President and his Cabinet have instituted a number of reforms, changes, and initiatives that, as the 9/11 Commission reported, have made our Nation safer. The President made further refinements and reforms based on the findings of the 9/11 Commission. Many of these, such as making the Terrorist Threat Integration Center more capable and enhancing the powers of the DCI, were undertaken by Executive order in August of this year.

Finally, I wish to thank the real heroes behind this bill, the 9/11 families who pushed and persevered to get this bill done. They turned their personal tragedy into public action so we all could be safer. As public servant and fellow citizen, I salute these outstanding Americans.

Strengthening America at home and abroad, moving America forward in pursuit of freedom and prosperity, and protecting the American people and our homeland—these have been the driving motivations of the 108th Congress. I am very proud to have been a part of this effort. I am proud to have had that opportunity to lead the Senate during this momentous time.

There is more to do. There is much more to do. This is an ongoing process, and we will not rest until our enemy is vanquished. But in these final days, my fellow Americans can take note of and comfort in this historic achievement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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 until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, we have a little business to do before the Senate which has been cleared by both sides of the aisle. I ask unanimous consent we do that little piece of business, and then I will make my statement.

This is December 7. It is the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the fateful day in 1941.

I ask unanimous consent we might do that.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PELELIU

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 102, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 102) recognizing the 60th anniversary of the battle of Peleliu and the end of the Imperial Japanese control of Palau during World War II and urging the Secretary of the Interior to work to protect the historic sites of the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark and to establish commemorative programs honoring the Americans who fought there.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BURNS. This Senator recognizes a good friend of mine from Billings, MT who was involved in Peleliu with the U.S. Marine Corps.

I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read the third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 102) was read the third time and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DETENTION OF TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 483, submitted earlier today by Senator BROWNBACK.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 483) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the detention of Tibetan political prisoners by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 483) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 483

Whereas, according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in Tibet;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has yet to demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted standards of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has detained hundreds of Tibetan nuns, monks, and lay persons as political prisoners for speaking out against China's occupation of Tibet and for their efforts to preserve Tibet's distinct national identity;

Whereas Phuntsog Nyidron was arrested on October 14, 1989, together with 5 other nuns, for participating in a peaceful protest against China's occupation of Tibet;

Whereas, on February 26, 2004, following a sustained international campaign on her behalf, the Government of the People's Republic of China released Phuntsog Nyidron from detention after she served more than 14 years of her 16-year sentence;

Whereas Tenzin Delek, a prominent Tibetan religious leader, and 3 other monks were arrested on April 7, 2002, during a nighttime raid on Jamyang Choekhorling monastery in Nyagchu County, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture;

Whereas, following a closed trial and more than 8 months of incommunicado detention, Tenzin Delek and another Tibetan, Lobsang Dhondup, were convicted of inciting separatism and for their alleged involvement in a series of bombings on December 2, 2002;

Whereas Lobsang Dhondup was sentenced to death and Tenzin Delek was sentenced to death with a 2-year suspension;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China told senior officials of the United States and other governments that the cases of Lobsang Dhondup and Tenzin Delek would be subjected to a "lengthy review" by the Supreme People's Court prior to the death sentences being carried out;

Whereas the Supreme People's Court never carried out this review, and Lobsang Dhondup was executed on January 26, 2003;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has failed to produce any evidence that either Lobsang Dhondup or Tenzin Delek were involved in the crimes for which they were convicted, despite repeated requests from officials of the United States and other governments;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to imprison Tibetans for engaging in peaceful efforts to protest China's repression of Tibetans and preserve the Tibetan identity;

Whereas Tibetan political prisoners are routinely subjected to beatings, electric shock, solitary confinement, and other forms of torture and inhumane treatment while in Chinese custody;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to exert control over religious and cultural institutions in Tibet, abusing human rights through the torture, arbitrary arrest, and detention without fair or public trial of Tibetans who peacefully express their political or religious views or attempt to preserve the unique Tibetan identity; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has paroled individual political prisoners for good behavior or for medical reasons in the face of strong international pressure, but has failed to make the systemic changes necessary to provide minimum standards of due process or protections for basic civil and political rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Government of the People's Republic of China is in violation of international human rights standards by detaining and mistreating Tibetans who engage in peaceful activities to protest China's repression of Tibetans or promote the preservation of a distinct Tibetan identity;

(2) sustained international pressure on the Government of the People's Republic of China is essential to improve the human rights situation in Tibet and secure the release of Tibetan political prisoners;

(3) the Government of the United States should—