

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AMENDMENT NO. 487

NOMINATION OF JOHN D. NEGROPONTE TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session and proceed to a vote on the nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John D. Negroponte, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John D. Negroponte, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence? The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 107 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Akaka	Dodd	Martinez
Alexander	Dole	McCain
Allard	Domenici	McConnell
Allen	Dorgan	Mikulski
Baucus	Durbin	Murkowski
Bayh	Ensign	Murray
Bennett	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Feinstein	Obama
Bond	Frist	Pryor
Boxer	Graham	Reed
Brownback	Grassley	Reid
Bunning	Gregg	Roberts
Burns	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burr	Hatch	Salazar
Byrd	Hutchison	Santorum
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Carper	Inouye	Schumer
Chafee	Isakson	Sessions
Chambliss	Jeffords	Shelby
Clinton	Johnson	Smith
Coburn	Kennedy	Snowe
Cochran	Kerry	Specter
Coleman	Kohl	Stabenow
Collins	Kyl	Stevens
Conrad	Landrieu	Sununu
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Talent
Corzine	Leahy	Thomas
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Vitter
Dayton	Lincoln	Voivovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	

NAYS—2

Harkin Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I yield back my time on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 487) was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, in the decade before 9/11, al Qaeda studied how to exploit gaps and weaknesses in the borders of the United States.

A few months ago, intelligence officials confirmed that the terrorist Zargawi plans to infiltrate America through our borders. He plans to attack targets such as movie theaters, restaurants, and schools.

A year-long investigation recently concluded with authorities arresting 18 people who planned to smuggle grenade launchers, shoulder-fired missiles, and other Russian military weapons into our country.

Let's face it—the dual threat of illegal border crossing by people who wish to kill us and the weapons they need to do it is very real.

We are not dealing with rational people. We are not dealing with people who respect life or freedom. It would be irresponsible to sit idly by and not treat these threats seriously. We must continue to be diligent in our fight to defeat terror and protect our homeland.

Before 9/11, INS had only 9,800 border patrol agents. With the agency focused on immigration and narcotics, no major counterterrorism effort was underway.

More than 3 years after the devastating terrorist attacks, the men and women who serve on the border's front-line of defense are still overwhelmed. The Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has admitted they need more agents.

Our agents catch only about one-third of the estimated 3 million people who cross the border illegally each year. Three and half years ago it only took 19 to change the course of this country.

The 9/11 Commission addressed this very problem. They recommended banning terrorists from traveling to our country. This is exactly what my amendment attempts to accomplish.

We must commit resources to block terrorists who attempt to enter our country. Last year, I sponsored an amendment to the National Intelligence Reform Act that authorized the hiring of 10,000 new agents to patrol our borders over the next 5 years. And last month, the Senate approved a Budget which funded the hiring and training of 2,000 new border patrol agents next year.

Border security requires a serious commitment by Congress. There is no question that we need to hire new

agents. Our security depends on it. But it will take more than simply hiring agents. Congress needs to increase funding for training and equipment. I hope we will remember this during the regular appropriations process.

We cannot wait another year to improve our border security. This is an emergency. The amendment that I am offering will put new agents on the ground in the next few months.

My amendment begins to fulfill the commitment Congress made last year. It provides \$147 million to hire and train 400 new border patrol agents by October; 400 new agents is the maximum number of new agents that the Department of Homeland Security can train before the end of this fiscal year.

My amendment does not require any new spending. It is completely offset.

The 9/11 Commission found that many of the 19 hijackers could have been placed on watch lists. They were vulnerable to detection by border authorities. Without adequate staff and coordinated efforts, the terrorists were allowed to enter the United States. Once here they learned how to fly airplanes at American flight schools. They conducted surveillance to assess our weaknesses. And they attacked.

In order to prevent another terrorist attack on American soil, we must improve every aspect of our nation's security. Our security is truly only as strong as our weakest link.

For too long, the lack of funding for border agents has been a weak link. By funding additional agents, we protect both our southern and our, often neglected, northern border. This will make it harder for terrorists to enter the United States and attack us.

The world has changed dramatically since 9/11 when the terrorists used our open and trusting society against us. We can not allow a repeat of that tragedy. This amendment will help those who guard our frontiers by providing necessary tools to ensure the safety of our citizens.

AMENDMENT NO. 520

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided on Bayh amendment No. 520.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I had the opportunity to speak to the distinguished Senator from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS, and I know he was anxious to address the Senate with regard to his desire to obtain time to speak in opposition to the Bayh amendment. Might I ask, what is the parliamentary situation with regard to that? Hopefully, we can see the appearance of the Senator from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). Under the previous order, there are 2 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the Bayh amendment.

Mr. WARNER. Will the Chair kindly repeat that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 2 minutes evenly divided prior to the vote on the Bayh amendment.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of the senior Senator from Alaska,