

Court of Appeals. I will make every effort to see that he gets a vote before the Memorial Day recess.

President Bush nominated Mr. Kavanaugh on July 25, 2003, 3 years ago. He has been waiting for that up-or-down vote on the floor of the Senate since that time. That is almost 3 years ago. That is a long enough time for us to bring that nomination forward to the floor and to act on that nomination. He is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, and he is also a former Supreme Court clerk. He has sterling credentials. Most of us have studied his record.

Mr. Kavanaugh has a broad range of experience as a prosecutor, as a lawyer in private practice, and as a trusted counsel and adviser to President Bush.

Throughout his entire career, Brett Kavanaugh has demonstrated the fair-minded temperament and intellectual prowess that is needed to serve as a Federal appellate judge.

There will be a lot more to say about him in the coming weeks. We will talk about that nomination. For now, I urge my colleagues to refocus on the nomination process and make sure it will work fairly. I want to be able to approach the process and dignify it in a civil way, rejecting the obstruction and personal attacks that have arisen on the floor in times past. Let's embrace the principle of a fair up-or-down vote. It is right to do for the nominees—to treat them in a dignified way—and for the American people, who depend on fairminded judges to resolve disputes and interpret our laws.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. The distinguished majority leader is right, we confirmed two Supreme Court Justices. I think they were dignified debates. I think the committee did a good job in preparing the Senate for those two Supreme Court nominations. We have also approved 29 lower court nominations. All nominees have been considered by the full Senate in this Congress and have been confirmed. The minority recognizes what rights we have. We will continue to recognize what those rights are, and certainly we have not abused any of those rights. We don't intend to. We will perform our constitutional role.

I say to the majority leader he is right, Mr. Kavanaugh had a hearing, but that was more than 2 years ago. I think one of the things that should be considered is whether the Judiciary Committee should update that. There have been a lot of things going on dealing with the situation in Iraq in which he was involved. That is a subject for discussion at a later time.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

We look forward to the supplemental appropriations bill being finished. We have a lot of amendments. At this stage, we have had very few quorum calls. I am somewhat disappointed that we have this situation before us today. I believe the committee did some very good work—the Appropriations Committee—in bringing this matter to the floor. I wish we had a vote. I think when it is all over, that is what it will wind up being, anyway. I hope Senator COBURN, for whom I have the greatest respect, when he sees the first few votes, will get the idea how things are moving along and maybe we won't have to have all those votes.

As I understand it, at this time, there are about 30 votes in order at this stage. We have to dispose of those. There are people over here on this side waiting to offer amendments, none of which are dilatory in nature and all of which are dealing with the situation in Iraq, our military generally, with veterans. We have amendments that people wish to offer dealing with the energy situation we find in America.

So I hope today we can figure out a way to get through this situation. I appreciate very much the majority leader recognizing, as he has for the last few weeks, that we have an event over the weekend, a retreat in Philadelphia. We understand that.

The point I am making is that on this side we understand the importance of this bill. We wish it had not been part of an emergency appropriation in the original budget. We have to play the cards we are dealt. We will do everything we can to move this forward in what we believe is a dignified manner.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask if I might have the privilege of introducing the visiting pastor who gave the morning prayer before the Senator from Oklahoma speaks.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have no objection if the majority is going to have the first half of the 15 minutes immediately following the Senator's introduction.

REVEREND FRANCIS H. WADE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, it is a wonderful privilege for me to introduce to our colleagues Rev. Frank Wade, who most recently is the rector at St. Alban's Church. I want to say upfront that this great pastor married me and my wife Jeanne some 2 years ago. It was a real experience. It was so magnificent in that we counseled with him—even though both of us are well into adulthood—and received his guidance for some weeks prior to that beautiful ceremony, which was held in the Washington Cathedral. That is a site—St. Alban's and the Washington Cathedral—where I have spent so much of my life. Preceding Dr. Wade was my uncle, Charles Tinsley Warner, rector

of St. Alban's Church for almost 40 years, from the late 1920s and 1930s all through World War II.

Our colleagues might recall that one of our dearest Members of the Senate, the former Senator from Missouri, Mr. Danforth, was an ordained Episcopal minister and he also preached occasionally at St. Alban's Church. Dr. Wade went to the Citadel, and from there he went to the Virginia Episcopal Seminary, where my uncle also graduated. For 17 years, he tended to the ministry of those in the great State of West Virginia. What a privilege for Dr. Wade and me this morning to have a few moments with our highly esteemed colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD.

I thank my colleagues and I thank Senator LAUTENBERG and Mr. Maxwell of his staff, who worked to make this memorable occasion for so many possible today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my understanding we have 15 minutes equally divided. I ask the Chair, after 6 minutes has elapsed, to advise me.

First, let me say there is nothing new to the problem we have had in this country by not having an energy policy. I can remember when Don Hodel was Secretary of Energy and later Secretary of the Interior. We had a dog-and-pony show where we went around the country during the Reagan administration and tried to talk about how serious this was—the fact that our dependence upon foreign countries, or our ability to fight a war, was not an energy problem, it was a national security problem.

We found the message didn't sell. I was critical of the Reagan administration. Later on, when the first Bush administration came along, I thought, surely, out of the oil patch he would want to have an energy policy, but he didn't either. And during the Clinton administration, he did not. When the second George Bush came into office, the first thing he did was say we are going to have an energy policy. Keep in mind that our dependency at that time, when I was active around the country with Don Hodel, was 36 to 37 percent. Now we are up to twice that. It is much worse now than it was before.

We are in the middle of our second gulf war and people should realize what a threat this is. I chair the Environment and Public Works Committee, which has most of the jurisdiction over many energy issues, and certainly the air issues. I remember making every effort to get drilling on ANWR. The distinguished President pro tempore has spent his life trying to get production in the northern part of his State. It is something that would resolve the problem.

Yesterday, on this floor, one of the Senators on the Democratic side said it would take 10 years before we would see any of that production. I don't believe that is true. But if it were true, I remind my colleagues that on November 20, 1995, we passed in both Chambers drilling in ANWR, and President Clinton vetoed the bill. We would have it today. We would not be having this problem.

I suggest also that there is one other facet that has not been talked about enough, and that is, we could have all the production, all the exploration in the world, but if we don't have the refining capacity, it doesn't do any good.

We were at 100 percent refining capacity even before Katrina. This is a serious problem. In our committee, we marked up a refinery bill, a very sophisticated bill, very moderate. It would allow those cities where they had closed military bases to use those closed military bases along with EDA grants to establish refineries. It is something that would enhance our refinery capacity and give us new refineries, and it was killed right down party lines. Every Democrat voted against it.

I will read what one of the papers, the Topeka Capital Journal, said:

Politics played a crucial role in Democrat opposition. If gas prices are high next year—

This is next year now—

the GOP will be blamed. . . .

Even though it is the Democrats who are responsible for it. So we have those problems that are looming at the same time.

I will say this: Democrats did offer an alternative when they killed the refinery bill. All eight Democrats on the Environment and Public Works Committee, the committee I chair, voted in favor of an alternative that would put the Environmental Protection Agency in charge of siting, constructing, and operating oil facilities. In other words, socializing that particular sector of our economy, which is something they apparently believe Government can operate better than people.

It is not true. When we had the LIHEAP program, I had an amendment that would have improved the permitting process for ethanol plants, as well as oil refineries and coal liquid facilities. Again, killed right down party lines.

I guess what I am saying is, we go through this and we see what is happening, and it is always down party lines when we try to enhance our ability to have natural gas. Ask farmers anywhere in America what is causing the cost of fertilizer to go up. It is a shortage of natural gas.

At the same time, we had an opportunity to do something in Massachusetts. Two Congressmen from Massachusetts, FRANK and MCGOVERN, put a provision in the Transportation bill that blocks the construction of an already-approved liquefied natural gas facility.

What I am saying is—and I know I am down to 1 minute, Mr. President—it doesn't seem to matter to the Democrats whether we are trying to do something with fossil fuels, trying to do something with oil and gas, trying to do something with clean coal technology, or trying to do something with nuclear energy. It always is killed right down party lines. Now the crisis is here, and we are going to have to face it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota is recognized.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as Americans go to the gas pump to fill up their gas tanks with gasoline, they are met with a very harsh economic reality. We have higher gas prices in this country. We don't have enough supply in this country. Of course, we have lots of demand, and demand continues to grow not only in the United States but around the world.

As the Senator from Oklahoma said, we have been trying to take steps now for a decade to address this issue of shortage of supply. As consumers look at the prices they are facing today and the fact that we, for the past decade, have really, for all intents and purposes, done nothing to lessen our dependence on foreign sources of energy or to add to energy resources we have in this country, that reality is starting to take root. I think people are realizing that now for the very first time, and they are taking the steps they can to curb demand. They are carpooling, buying more fuel-efficient vehicles, probably walking more than they used to. I think consumers are doing what they can on their side of the equation to try to address the demand issue.

We have a profound supply issue that has been complicated by a decade of obstruction in the U.S. Congress when it comes to increasing that supply. We have tried for the past decade—I was a Member of the House of Representatives for three terms and now as a Member of the Senate. We have had the opportunity to vote on numerous occasions to explore and produce oil on the North Slope of Alaska. There is somewhere between 6 and 16 billion barrels of oil on the North Slope of Alaska. There would be 1 million barrels a day in the pipeline if, when in 1995 the Congress acted, the President had acted and signed legislation into law that would have allowed us to take advantage of that rich resource right here in America.

We have tried on countless occasions to add to supply. We have offshore production. Why is it that Cuba can produce oil off the coast of Florida but we can't? We have to do something to help ourselves, and for the past decade we have been blocked at every turn by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, by the Democrats in the Senate and in the House, from being able to get into the resources in the State of Alaska and other places.

As the Senator from Oklahoma mentioned, we had a vote in the Environment and Public Works Committee on legislation that would allow us to expand our refinery capacity. It was blocked by a party-line vote. One Republican voted with the Democrats, but the Democrats voted as a party en bloc against expanding refinery capacity.

That is something, too, that we need to get done. I believe there would be a majority of Senators in the Senate who would be in favor of that, just as there is a majority of Senators who are in favor of exploring on the North Slope of Alaska and in favor of offshore production. But the rules of the Senate have been used repeatedly—repeatedly, Mr. President—to block the clear will of the majority when it comes to adding to supply so we can lessen the crisis that we face in this country, putting more supply out there to bring that cost of gasoline, that cost of petroleum down. We have run into constant obstruction in the Senate from our colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle.

So as consumers look at what they are facing today, it is important they begin to apply pressure to their leaders in the Senate and the House to take steps that should have been taken a long time ago and for which there is a clear majority of support in the Senate for exploration in Alaska, for building additional refinery capacity, for offshore production—for all these things that would add to the supply.

Having said that, I also believe it is not too late to do the right thing, and I have introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator OBAMA from Illinois that would help increase the use of renewable fuels to help meet the energy crisis, that would allow fuel retailers to defray the cost of installing E-85 pumps and other alternative fuel tanks at gas stations. Currently, only about 600 gas stations in the country have E-85 pumps. This would give many more Americans access to this alternative fuel and reduce our dependency on foreign energy.

There is more we can do. The President needs to push our oil-supplying countries to increase production to help ease this supply crisis.

Later today, I will introduce legislation that will provide immediate and short-term relief to American consumers. I will introduce legislation called the Gas Price Reduction Act of 2006 that will provide that relief. It will suspend the gas tax in its entirety for the remainder of this summer, until September 30, the period when Americans need the relief the most over the course of the summer months, when they are doing most of their traveling.

It calls for the elimination of the current 18.4-cents-per-gallon Federal gas tax on gasoline, relief that Americans will feel when they fill their gas tanks. The lost revenues will be reimbursed by temporary suspension of a number of tax credits and royalty

waivers received by oil corporations. The increased revenue to the Federal Government from this suspension of tax breaks and incentives will be used to reimburse the Federal Treasury and the highway trust fund dollar for dollar for lost revenue from the suspension of the gasoline tax. The temporary suspension of the tax credits and waivers will remain in place until the resulting revenue stream has fully reimbursed the Treasury.

As we see skyrocketing gas prices around the country, it is time for this Congress to act. It is time for the American consumer to realize some relief. When crude oil is selling for \$73 a barrel, it seems to me that many of these incentives and tax credits that are in place for research, development, exploration, and even drilling costs for the oil companies could be used to offset a reduction in the gasoline tax that will bring immediate relief to hard-working consumers who are facing higher and higher costs for the fuel they need to get to work, to do their jobs.

I look forward to engaging in the debate about what we can do here and now, but I have to say that in the long term, steps should have been taken a decade ago to add to supplies in this country. It is never too late to do the right thing. We need to be moving forward to make sure America is energy independent, that America's future is energy secure. So we have to rely less and less on foreign countries around the world from which we derive today about 60 percent of our energy supply. That is an untenable situation to be in. It is something that should have been addressed. We tried to address it for years. There is majority support for many of these proposals that would increase supply in this country today, but we continue to run into obstruction in the Senate. I hope that will end so we can address this incredibly important crisis and issue to the American people.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 2 minutes remaining for the majority.

The Senator from Alabama.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, on roll-call vote 99 yesterday, I voted nay. It was my intention to vote yea. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to proceed in morning business on the Democratic time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. There is 1½ minutes remaining for the majority.

The Senator is recognized on his time.

TRIBUTE TO LTG WILLIAM J. LENNOX

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of LTG William J. Lennox, United States Army, Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. General Lennox is retiring on the June 30, after 35 years of active military service. I have known General Lennox for many years. His military career exemplifies a soldier who always sought and achieved excellence.

After graduating from West Point in 1971, General Lennox served in a wide variety of assignments in the field artillery. He served as a Forward Observer, Executive Officer, and Fire Support Officer in the 1st Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, and as Commander, Battery B, 2d Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, in the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO. He was the Operations Officer and Executive Officer for the 2d Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, in the 3d Infantry Division in Germany. He returned to Fort Carson to command the 5th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, in the 4th Infantry Division and also commanded the Division Artillery in the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, GA.

General Lennox also served in a number of staff positions including a White House Fellowship, as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, and as the Executive Officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.

Additionally, General Lennox served as the Deputy Commanding General and Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center; the Chief of Staff for III Corps and Fort Hood; the Assistant Chief of Staff, CJ-3, at Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea; the Deputy Commanding General, Eighth United States Army and Chief of Legislative Liaison.

General Lennox is not only a soldier, however, he is also a scholar. After West Point, he continued his education at Princeton University, receiving a master's degree and a doctorate in literature. He was first in his class at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Officer's School. He also completed the Senior Service College Fellowship at Harvard University.

In June 2001, General Lennox became the Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, and took the helm of one of the Nation's premier institutions of higher learning. Managing 7,000 people and \$250 million budget per year on the 16,000-acre campus, he provided strategic direction for the academic, military, athletic and values programs.

During his tenure, his key accomplishments not only preserved but even enhanced the prestige of the Military Academy. General Lennox oversaw upgrades to the core liberal arts program while sustaining the fourth-ranked undergraduate engineering program in the country. Today, only Harvard, Princeton, and Yale produce more Rhodes scholars than West Point.

General Lennox has implemented and intensified opportunities for cultural exposure and expanded semesters abroad to countries such as China, Russia, Spain, and Chile.

In the summer of 2005, he himself traveled to the People's Republic of China to strengthen ties with educators and government officials and improve the opportunities for exchanges. His has increased the number of foreign students by 74 percent, an initiative that promises to build language and cultural skills, as well as lasting relationships with our allies across the globe.

General Lennox also realized the importance of the physical infrastructure of the Academy to the ultimate success of the cadets. His capital improvements have changed the face of the historic post for the better. He planned and began building a \$120 million library learning center and science complex that is architecturally compatible with the granite buildings from previous centuries, and he completed construction of the \$95 million physical development center.

To provide the margin of excellence necessary to maintain the U.S. Military Academy's status as a tier I university, LTG Lennox completed a \$150 million fund raising campaign with over \$220 million. The funds from private sources enabled further improvements in the academic, athletic and military programs.

General Lennox also recognized that the United States Military Academy was part of a larger community. From the outset of his tenure, he sought the comments and insights of graduates, the Academy, and the members of the surrounding neighborhood, whenever appropriate, to give them a closer identification with and support for the institution and ultimately its decisions.

LTG Lennox leaves a notably improved Academy in terms of leadership, facilities, and finances. The military, academic, physical and moral/ethical development programs at the Academy have never been stronger and more connected to the Army. General Lennox has set the course for officer education into the first half of the new century.

Bill Lennox is an extraordinary soldier. He combines great intellect, great character and great dedication. He is also an extraordinary man. Together with his wife, Anne, he has raised three sons, Andrew, Matthew, and Jonathan, who have continued the Lennox tradition of service. He and Anne have been a remarkable example of husband and wife in service to the Army and in service to the Nation. And anyone who has enjoyed the warm embrace of their friendship, treasures their company and their kindness.

The motto of West Point is "Duty, Honor, Country." Throughout its history, West Point has been guided by leaders who exemplify and live out that great credo. LTG William Lennox is such a leader. He leaves a proud and