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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Creator of heaven and earth, lead us to the path of compassion. Help us who would be Your followers to feel the pain in our world. Open our eyes to the plight of the sick, the hungry, and the oppressed. Unstop our ears, that we may hear the groans of suffering people and the cries of those without hope. Teach us to pray for the lost, the lonely, and the least, until we unleash Your sovereign power that can rescue the perishing.

Today bless the work of our Senators and use them as agents of Your grace. Help them to do their part to relieve suffering, to alleviate pain, and to plead for justice.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we open the Senate with a 30-minute pe-

riod of morning business. After those statements, we will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. There are now six pending amendments that the chairman and ranking member are reviewing to determine how much debate will be necessary. Yesterday, Senator LEVIN filed an amendment related to troop withdrawal in Iraq. I understand that amendment may be offered today. I know many Senators will want to participate in that debate. It is my expectation that we will set up blocks of time for debate, perhaps for this afternoon, so that Senators will know of the appropriate time to come to the floor to give their remarks on the amendment. In addition to the pending amendments, other amendments will be offered today. Therefore, we will be voting today on amendments to the Defense authorization bill. The Democratic side of the aisle will have their normal policy meeting today, and we will recess from 12:30 to 2:15. As a reminder to my colleagues, we have scheduled our Republican policy meeting to occur during Wednesday's session instead of today.

IRAQ

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to comment on the debate that has been underway on the Defense authorization bill. In particular, I want to draw attention to the heroism, courage, and great work of our soldiers on the frontline. Every day they are risking their lives to defend our freedom. They are taking that battle to the enemy so that the enemy does not bring that battle to us on our own soil.

No one would have guessed almost 5 years ago that we would be free from having suffered another major terrorist attack. We have been extraordinarily fortunate. We remember 1993, the World Trade Center attack, Khobar Towers, our embassies in Tanzania and

Kenya, the USS *Cole*, and then that day on 9/11. We have been safe because of our brave men and women, Americans who are putting their lives on the line to protect this country. Then there was that day on 9/11 where our enemy declared war. They slaughtered innocent citizens right here on American soil. They judged us to be weak, to be vacillating. They believed we would cower in the face of brutality. They were wrong.

Out of the black smoke and ashes of that terrible day, America stood up strong, united, and determined. And after careful deliberation, we answered back. We toppled the Taliban in Afghanistan, where al-Qaida had trained. We toppled Saddam Hussein, a real and continuing threat to the security of our Nation and to our allies. Since then we have continued the hard work of draining the swamp that nurtured and festered these monsters. It hasn't been easy. The last 3 years have strained our patience as we have watched the terrorists' counterattack. Innocent Iraqis, coalition forces, humanitarians, and journalists have been targeted simply for trying to secure a free and open Iraq. But the enemy's effort to plunge Iraq into chaos will not succeed.

Slowly, freedom is gaining ground. The Iraqi people are emerging from three decades of brutal repression and claiming their right to stand among democratic nations. Last year, millions of Iraqis defied the threats of Abu al-Zarqawi and streamed to the polls in three national elections. Iraq's Sunni population participated in greater numbers each time. On June 8, the new democratically elected Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki named the last three members of his Cabinet—the Ministers of Defense, Interior and Security—thereby completing formation of his unity government. What huge progress. The new government is committed to facing the challenges of terrorism and corruption and to move Iraq's fledgling

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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democracy forward on the path to freedom. I believe they will succeed as long as we do not break faith with them.

It was a week ago the Iraqis formally asked the United Nations Security Council to maintain the U.S.-led coalition with these words:

While great achievements have been gained by the people of Iraq in the realm of political development, the continuation of the mandate of the multinational force in Iraq remains necessary and essential for our security.

Far from the rhetoric that is being used by some today, the Iraqi people want us, and they need us to help them. If we don't, if we break our promise and cut and run, as some would have us do, the implications could be catastrophic. Not only would it be a dishonor to our Americans, a dishonor of historic proportions, the threat to America's national security would be potentially disastrous. If large parts of Iraq were to fall into the hands of terrorists, there would be no end to the threats we might face. Iraq could become a terrorist base for attacking us and undermining our allies. Many of Saddam Hussein's weapons scientists are still in Iraq, and the destruction of 9/11 would pale in comparison to the devastation terrorists could inflict with weapons of mass destruction produced in Iraq using their experience.

Leaving Iraq to the terrorists is simply not an option. Surrendering is not a solution. Zarqawi's elimination on June 7 was a profound victory. Coalition forces have captured or killed 161 of Zarqawi's leaders, key elements in the command and control of the terrorist network. Iraqi troops and the Iraqi people are working ever more diligently to defeat the terrorist enemy. In July of 2004, there were no operational Iraqi Army division or brigade headquarters. In just 2 years, 2 divisions, 14 brigades, and 57 battalions control their own area of responsibility. That is progress. Also, 28 authorized national police units are in the fight with 10 battalions in the lead. Over 254,000 trained and equipped Iraqi security forces are taking the battle to the enemy. These are just a few of the positive indicators. With our help, Iraq is making steady and impressive progress every day.

America has faced great challenges before. We rose up to defeat Naziism, one of the ugliest ideologies in modern history. It took terrible sacrifice and great pain, but we defeated the Nazi scourge. Through the Marshall plan, we rebuilt a continent of democratic and independent states. For the next four decades, we battled the Cold War against Communism, a long battle we ultimately won. In the great wars of the 20th century, our ideals carried us through even when victory seemed far from assured. Young American men and women who had never seen the world came to be its bravest defenders.

As we continue the war on terror, we cannot retreat, we cannot surrender,

we cannot go wobbly. The price is far too high. The strength we show now is the security we earn for the future. As the President has explained, America's troops will stand down as the Iraqi troops stand up. They are gaining strength every day. By keeping a steady eye on the ultimate goal, by having flexibility and patience, I am confident we will succeed. No less than America's security depends on it.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAQI AMNESTY PLAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it goes without saying there are a number of issues upon which Senate Democrats and Senate Republicans will never agree. We have our differences about whether there is global warming, about the staggering deficits we have, lack of health care, economic policy generally. I understand and respect the differences we have on those issues. If there were ever an issue where we should be able to find common ground, it is supporting the troops we have around the world. I use the word "should" because of what is now happening in the Senate.

As I speak, there is an amendment pending before this body. It is an amendment that says the Iraqi Government should not proceed with their plan to grant amnesty to terrorists who kill American troops. It is a very simple amendment with a message the American people, I know, agree with. So why is it that Republicans who control this body have filibustered this amendment? It has been going on for days now. I really have trouble figuring that out. Their excuses don't make sense.

Their first excuse is that aides to the Prime Minister were misquoted, but we don't have any evidence of that. In fact, it is quite the contrary. The aide who first stated this stands by his story. They have asked him to step down, and he no longer has his position. But he was quoted, after having stepped down, as saying:

The prime minister himself has said that he is ready to give amnesty to the so-called resistance, provided they have not been involved in killing Iraqis.

That was the end of the quote. Of course, what it doesn't say, according to everything that they have said, is that it is OK to kill Americans but not Iraqis. We now have news accounts—not confirmed by the Pentagon, at least to me—that Kristian Menchaca, 23 years old, member of the U.S. Army, and Thomas Tucker, age 25, U.S. Army, who were abducted, taken as prisoners of war, have been killed. Try telling their families that it is OK to give amnesty to the so-called resistance provided they have not been involved in

killing Iraqis, only Americans. The families of Tucker and Menchaca would be very displeased.

Over the weekend we received even more evidence that the Iraqi Government favors amnesty for those who shed American blood. From Sunday's Los Angeles Times: The amnesty plan would apparently include insurgents alleged to have staged attacks against Americans.

They are saying amnesty. So it is clear that the situation regarding amnesty, the amendment pending before this body, is one where the Iraqis who serve in their Government are saying that it is OK if the insurgents kill Americans and not OK if they kill Iraqis. The only thing that is clear is the Senate needs to go on record and direct President Bush to tell the Iraqi Government that that plan is unacceptable. That is what the amendment does.

There are other excuses offered by the majority. Some have argued that if indeed this amnesty plan is real, we should just accept it as we did amnesty plans following World War II and Vietnam. Of course, we know that there were war trials in World War II. World War II went on for 3 years plus. This war has been going on for 3 years plus. World War II was fought all over the world, Southeast Asia, all over Europe, Africa, all of the islands between Hawaii and Japan. The war in Iraq has been fought in a relatively small area and has been going on almost as long as World War II. So I believe the argument that we should accept their amnesty plan doesn't set well with me or with the American people.

The majority of Americans killed in Iraq have not been killed in traditional acts of war. This war is different from others. They have been killed in acts of war, even though they have been so-called nontraditional acts of war. They were killed in acts of terror, which is part of this war. Anybody who believes in freedom and what our troops are dying for in Iraq should believe their killers should be brought to justice if possible. I believe the excuses on the majority side are designed by Republicans to hide the truth.

The filibuster of the anti-amnesty amendment is just another example of cutting and running. We hear this all the time. If there were ever an example of cutting and running, it is not to allow a vote on a simple amendment that says we should not condone the Iraqis granting amnesty to Iraqis who have killed Americans.

I believe this cutting and running, which is thrown around here so gratuitously by the majority, could apply to what happened last year on the Defense authorization bill. It took months. The bill was reported out of committee, I think sometime in late April. We didn't get to the bill for months after that. Why? We had it on the floor once, but it was pulled because of gun liability legislation, which some believed was more important than the bill directing