

The two managers of this bill are two of our finest. Senator FEINSTEIN in the past has managed bills as a member of the Appropriations Committee. Senator BENNETT is someone who has a great knowledge of Senate procedures. He is, in my opinion, a Senator's Senator. He does such a good job in everything he is involved in. We have two very good, thoughtful managers of this bill. If anyone can move this forward, I know the two of them can.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

LOBBYING AND ETHICS REFORM LEGISLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say to my good friend, the majority leader, I share his view that we ought to make progress on this bill. There are a number of amendments already pending. We will be working together during the course of the morning to get some votes scheduled. I share his view that we ought to finish this bill next week. So we will be going forward in a cooperative frame of mind.

This is an important piece of legislation. It has bipartisan support, as illustrated by the fact that the majority leader and myself are cosponsors of the substitute he offered yesterday. This is a piece of legislation that ought to be passed and ought to be passed soon in the Senate and will be done with a broad bipartisan basis of support.

So I look forward to working with my friend during the course of the day to get votes in the queue so we can move forward.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could say one thing before the Republican leader leaves. I want everyone to hear what I said before. The first measure Senator MCCONNELL and I introduced, S. 1, will be the most significant lobbying and ethics reform bill since Watergate, if nothing else happens. And then we went a step further and, on a bipartisan basis, offered the substitute amendment which moves the ball down the field by a long way.

This bill is significant, and if nothing else happens other than S. 1 and the substitute, this will be a tremendously important piece of legislation in the annals of the history of this country. We have a lot of other people who want to improve the bill in their mind, and that is what this amendment process is all about. But we cannot lose sight of the fact that this is a significant move forward in ethics and lobbying reform with the two measures that have been put forward on a bipartisan basis. We have done already, some good work for the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I might add, I agree with everything the majority leader said. This substitute is essentially what passed the Senate last year 90 to 8. The Senate is ready to act or close to ready to finish this important piece of legislation. We were last year. It was bogged down in the legislative process in dealing with the other body. But we are going to pass this next week with an overwhelming bipartisan vote. And the majority leader and I will be working together to make that possible.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority and the second half of the time under the control of the minority.

The Chair recognizes the deputy majority leader.

IRAQ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, tonight President Bush will address our Nation. The subject is one that is on the minds of virtually every American. It is Iraq. According to the accounts in the press, President Bush will be announcing that he will be increasing the number of U.S. forces in Iraq, perhaps by 20,000 troops.

If these news accounts are correct, that means an additional 20,000 American service men and women will be sent into harm's way or ordered to remain there for longer tours of duty.

This morning on television, on CNN, they interviewed the families of some soldiers who are now headed for their third tour of duty. There was a sad, heartbreaking interview with a mother—her two small children nearby, and her soldier husband sitting just a chair away. She said she could not be prouder of her husband. She considered him a hero and a brave man and that he would answer the call of duty whenever. But she said, in her words: It is just so frustrating trying to raise this family with my husband being called to duty over and over and over again.

Our hearts go out to those families. Our prayers are with them and the troops as this decision is made to escalate this war in Iraq, to raise the number of troops from 144,000 to possibly 164,000 or higher.

These troops follow these orders because they are the best and the brav-

est. They march off to war, risk their lives, away from those they love because they are sworn to protect this great Nation. We can never thank them enough for what they are doing. Every moment of debate that we have on the floor of this Senate about the policy of our Government toward Iraq should not diminish nor detract from our great debt of gratitude to these men and women and their families.

I will be joining a number of my colleagues this afternoon as we sit with the President for a final briefing before his decision. Sadly, I am afraid that decision has already been made. It is the wrong decision. For reasons I do not understand, President Bush has reversed a position which he took early on. His position was that he would heed the advice and counsel of the men and women in uniform, of the generals in the field, of those who were in command and could see the actual battle on a day-to-day basis. The President told us, over and over again, he would only dispatch as many troops as they asked for. But clearly that has changed.

General Abizaid, who was the leader, the commanding general of CENTCOM, who oversaw Iraq and Afghanistan, told us in November he saw no reason for more U.S. troops. Let me read what General Abizaid said in testimony before Congress just weeks ago:

I met with every divisional commander, General Casey, the core commander, General Dempsey. We all talked together. And I said, in your professional opinion, if we were to bring in more American troops now, does it add considerably to our ability to achieve success in Iraq?

General Abizaid went on to say:

And they all said no. And the reason is, because we want the Iraqis to do more. It's easy for the Iraqis to rely upon us to do this work.

General Abizaid said:

I believe that more American forces prevent the Iraqis from doing more, from taking more responsibility for their own future.

Those are the words of the commanding general in Iraq a few weeks ago. Those were words which the President told the American people repeatedly would be his guidance in making decisions about whether to send more troops into battle. Those are words which the President tonight will ignore and reject.

There is a sad reality. The sad reality is this: 20,000 American soldiers, too few to end this civil war in Iraq; too many American soldiers to lose. I do not understand the President's logic. I do not understand how 20,000 troops could significantly make any difference.

Will there be a time line for these troops? If this is, in effect, a surge, as the White House has characterized it over and over again, is it temporary in nature? Well, if it is a surge that is temporary in nature, it betrays another position taken by the White House. How many times have we been told we cannot talk about an orderly