

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Yesterday, the House of Representatives clearly expressed its support for our troops and its disapproval of the President's action to escalate the war. Today, it is the Senate's turn.

Today, I believe that by voting for cloture, a majority of the Senate will convey the same message. There may not be 60 votes, but I believe there will be a majority. Our forces have been in Iraq for 4 years, \$380 billion has been spent, more than 3,000 troops have been killed, and nearly 24,000 have been wounded. My home State of California has lost more than 300 brave men and women, with thousands injured.

Iraq is in chaos: Sunni fighting Shia, Shia fighting Sunni, car bombs, IEDs, assassinations, mortar attacks, downed helicopters, death squads, and sabotaged infrastructure. Every day, we learn of new attacks, new casualties, new bloodshed, and no end in sight.

I believe this surge is a mistake. Four years ago, U.S. Armed Forces went to Iraq to be liberators. Today, they are caught in the bloody crossfire of internecine fighting. The question is, Can the American military solve a civil war? I don't believe it can. It was certainly not the mission Congress authorized in 2002. So the time has come for the Senate to say so, just as the House has done. The time has come to declare that our time has come and gone in Iraq. The time has come to speak clearly, and the time has come to change course.

The authorization for use of military force, approved by the Congress in October 2002, carries with it congressional approval of this war. The way to change course is to change that authorization. Therefore, today, I introduce legislation that will put the expiration date of December 31, 2007, on the authorization for use of military force.

The President would be required to return to Congress if he seeks to renew the resolution. The resolution recognizes that conditions have changed since the 2002 authorization was approved. Saddam Hussein is gone. An Iraqi Government has been established. It also recognizes the flaws of the 2002 authorization. Iraq, in fact, had no weapons of mass destruction. It was not closely allied with al-Qaida.

This resolution does not call for a precipitous withdrawal—let me stress that—but it sets a time limit—the remaining 10 months of the year—to stage an orderly redeployment and to transition this mission. That mission would be limited to training, equipping, and advising Iraqi security and police forces; to force protection and security for U.S. Armed Forces and civilian personnel; support of Iraqi security forces for border security and protection, to be carried out with the minimum forces required for that purpose; targeted counterterrorism operations against al-Qaida and foreign fighters within Iraq; and logistical support in connection with these activities.

I believe this legislation is the next logical step following today. It is sim-

ple, it is concise. After the majority vote today sends our disapproval to the President, it is time to consider the next step. I submit this resolution as a possible next step.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. J. RES. 3

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ.

The authority conveyed by the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243) shall expire on December 31, 2007, unless otherwise provided in a Joint Resolution (other than Public Law 107-243) enacted by Congress.

SEC. 2. ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN MILITARY OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

Section 1 shall not be construed as prohibiting or limiting the presence of personnel or units of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq after December 31, 2007, for the following purposes:

- (1) Training, equipping, and advising Iraqi security and police forces.
- (2) Force protection and security for United States Armed Forces and civilian personnel.
- (3) Support of Iraqi security forces for border security and protection, to be carried out with the minimum forces required for that purpose.
- (4) Targeted counter-terrorism operations against al Qaeda and foreign fighters within Iraq.
- (5) Logistical support in connection with activities under paragraphs (1) through (4).

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND RAIL SECURITY ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, February 27, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 184, Calendar No. 26, a bill to provide improved rail and surface transportation security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object, my understanding is the Senate would next turn to the so-called 9/11 bill on which the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee worked. That bill is not yet on the calendar and will be filed sometime this week.

I understand that the pending unanimous consent request is that we turn to a different bill, which has been reported by the Commerce Committee. At this point, I am compelled to object to this unanimous consent request and say to the majority leader, once the 9/11 bill is available and Members have had an opportunity to review the legislation, I will be happy to revisit this consent request. So I, therefore, object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in response to my friend, he is absolutely right. We

had every intention of moving to the Homeland Security bill, but it wasn't reported out of the committee. The matter I read, Calendar No. 26, is part of a big bill. I, frankly, understand why there is an objection. We are going to file a cloture motion. Hopefully, in the interim period of time, when people have a chance to look at this bill, we will get consent from the Republicans to move forward.

The reason I am moving to this bill now is I didn't want to waste Tuesday. Time is so precious around here that I wanted to get to this or some vehicle as soon as we can. We will do our best in the next few days to try to work this out.

The Republican leader already objected to my request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to S. 184 and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to S. 184, a bill to provide improved rail and surface transportation security.

Harry Reid, Russell D. Feingold, Daniel K. Inouye, Jack Reed, Sherrod Brown, Ron Wyden, Ken Salazar, Joe Biden, Mary Landrieu, John Kerry, Dick Durbin, Byron L. Dorgan, H.R. Clinton, Bill Nelson, Frank R. Lautenberg, B.A. Mikulski, Patty Murray.

MEASURES DISCHARGED AND PASSED—S. 171, H.R. 49, H.R. 335, H.R. 521, H.R. 433, H.R. 514, AND H.R. 577

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to discharge from the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee the following postal-naming bills and the Senate proceed en bloc to their consideration: S. 171, H.R. 49, H.R. 335, H.R. 521, H.R. 433, H.R. 514, and H.R. 577.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read three times, passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; that the consideration of these items appear separately in the RECORD; and that any statements relating to the measures be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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