

three of my five children graduated from schools in Virginia. It is a wonderful place, and tourism is very important to Virginia. This bill is important to Virginia.

Again, travel and tourism generate \$1 trillion in economic activity around the country every year, and in its first year, this bill will create more than 40,000 jobs. The bill will cut our deficit. We are not asking for money from the public trough to take care of this. This bill will cut our deficit by \$425 million over the next decade. We save money by doing this. We make money by doing this. We will be taking the strategies that have made Las Vegas such a success and bringing them to our entire Nation's tourism industry. It is one of the many ways we are working to create jobs and help our economy recover.

So far, the minority has shown no interest in either creating jobs or in helping our economy recover. I hope that, in this case, past is not prologue.

One of my floor staff here said they saw a Republican staffer just a short time ago and the Republican staffer said: Why won't you let us offer amendments?

That is some kind of game being played. I have had conversations with the Republican leader and with other Republican Senators on this bill, and I have said: Let's move on with this legislation. Under the rules, the amendments ultimately have to be germane, but I have said: I don't care if they are germane or not. If you want to offer amendments, that is what we have done all year and we will do it here.

They wanted to offer four amendments on TARP, and I said: Well, that has nothing to do with tourism, but if you want to do that, go ahead and do it.

In response, Senator SANDERS, from Vermont, told me that he had an amendment he wanted to offer. I said: Listen, BERNIE, if you want to offer a nongermane amendment, you can do it. If they want to offer a nongermane amendment, they can; otherwise, we are not going to do that.

So we have all these nongermane amendments they want to offer, and he has one he wants to offer. His amendment simply restates the law and makes it a little stronger, and in effect what it does is takes a look at the oil companies to see if they are manipulating prices. So the Republicans said: No, we are not going to agree to that; we want you to take all of our amendments, we will vote on them, and none for you. Well, that is not fair, it is not reasonable, and it is only an excuse for Republicans to again stymie legislation.

So let's get the facts straight. At the start of the debate, we offered Republicans nongermane amendments. They could have more amendments than we could have. We agreed to do that. Not a single one of the Republican amendments was related to this bill, and some of the amendments were even du-

plicates. But I said: Let's go ahead and do it anyway. Of course, the Republicans said no. They refuse to let us move forward, once again wasting the American people's time and money. They refuse to let us move forward—I repeat—once again wasting the American people's time and money.

It is difficult to watch what is going on here and come away with a sense that the Republicans have even the slightest interest in legislating or that they have the slightest understanding of what families are facing across the country. Just last week, in the Roll Call publication, a Republican Senator said—and it is on the front page—"Senate GOP Still Saying No." A Republican Senator said this last week in one of the newspapers that cover Capitol Hill, Roll Call:

Democrats need to know when they bring [bills] up, we're going to extend debate as long as we can—even if we can't win it.

So I say to this Republican Senator and all Republican Senators: This isn't a game. I say to those watching and listening today: The next time Republicans trot out their stale standard talking points about congressional approval ratings or the inefficiency of government, pay attention to see whether they also quote their fellow Republican Senator who admits they are not here to work. These partisan tactics have consequences. These consequences will be evident on every kitchen table, every family budget, and every American's peace of mind.

I encourage Republicans to finish this legislation. I have said that if there are nongermane amendments they want to file, even though we have no obligation to do that, we will have those amendments during the 30-hour postcloture time and dispose of them. I don't understand what the deal is here. This is the 18th time we have had to file cloture this year—the 18th time. In spite of that, we have been able to get a lot of work done. But I do encourage Republicans to join with us in moving this legislation forward. It is important.

I look around the floor, and I see Virginia, Nevada, and Arizona Senators here. Tourism is very important. It will create jobs. It will cut our deficit. It is not a bad combination. So I would encourage Republicans to join in this important travel promotion bill and to openly pass it so we can bring jobs home, helping our country prosper once again. We know if we can get past this procedural hurdle where we need 60 votes, all Democrats will vote to move forward. That is the right thing to do. Shouldn't we get even the sponsors of the bill to join in?

We haven't stopped the amendment process. They are going to have to come up with a different reason for voting against it than that because everyone has had an opportunity.

So I hope we can move forward. It was a bill that was originally going to be managed by Senators DORGAN and ENSIGN. Senator MARTINEZ has been

heavily involved. I thought we had things all worked out with him and Senator DORGAN on Thursday, but it all fell apart because of the inability to have Senator SANDERS have his amendment.

I simply don't understand what excuse they have for not moving forward with this legislation.

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 of morning business for 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Arizona.

IRAN

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, there is a news report from the Associated Press entitled "Iranian Police Use Force To Break Up Protest." The article reads as follows:

Tehran, Iran—Riot police attacked hundreds of demonstrators with tear gas and fired live bullets in the air to disperse a rally in central Tehran Monday, carrying out a threat by the country's most powerful security force to crush any further opposition protests over the disputed presidential election. Witnesses said helicopters hovered overhead as about 200 protesters gathered at Haft-e-Tir Square. But hundreds of anti-riot police quickly put an end to the demonstration and prevented any gathering, even small groups, at the scene. Iran says at least 17 protesters have been killed in a week of unrest so far after the electoral council declared hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad winner of the June 12 election.

Severe restrictions on reporters have made it almost impossible to independently verify any reports on demonstrations, clashes, and casualties. Iran has ordered reporters for foreign news agencies to stay in their offices, barring them from any reporting on the streets.

The story goes on. Demonstrations followed by repression, followed by murder in the streets. As these things seem to evolve, an event took place yesterday which may be the defining moment in the struggle of the Iranian people to be able to peacefully disagree with their government, in this case, because of a corrupt and fraudulent election, without being killed in the streets and beaten and imprisoned.

It has to do with a woman named Neda. I quote from an ABC news story dated June 22, 2009.

She sinks to the ground—and a few minutes later she is dead. A video that has been repeatedly posted on the Internet purports to show the last moments of Neda, a young Iranian woman shot in the heart by government sharpshooters. Overnight she has become a symbol of the opposition. [Her] shaky