

side of the aisle come forward with other amendments, making it impossible for us to move forward on this bill that creates jobs. It is a jobs bill.

I do not know how much more good faith we can show than what we have shown. Before the recess, we had, I think, nine amendments. We said: OK, let's vote on these. Senator SNOWE from Maine objected because she wanted to have a vote on a bill on which the chairman of the Small Business Committee said there had not even been a hearing.

We spent days working on an agreement to have votes on amendments to the small business bill to get us closer to passage. Included in this agreement was a Cornyn amendment having absolutely nothing—no relevance—nothing being germane to this bill. We had one from Senator HUTCHISON—same thing—dealing with health care. It has nothing to do with this legislation that is before the Senate.

We had all kinds of amendments. Very few had anything to do with the subject matter of the legislation. During the course of many weeks of debating the bill, we made efforts to accommodate Senator SNOWE and the rest of the Republicans on amendments, but there has been no way of ending this, so we are going to file cloture tonight.

We had a vote on another amendment offered by Senator SNOWE. She has already had one vote on this amendment, as well as multiple Republican amendments, nearly all of which, I repeat, have nothing to do with this underlying bill.

In light of the accommodation of extraneous amendments, it is difficult for me to understand why we cannot finish debate on this bill. But, obviously, the Republicans feel differently. We have been more than fair. We should be able to reach agreement on considering the remaining amendments and voting on final passage, but that is not what the Republican leader said is going to happen. I am sure he will tell his Senators we need more amendments and will vote to not allow cloture to take place.

There is only a limited amount of time we can spend on this legislation. We believe jobs is the key to what we do in the Senate. That is why I worked hard to get the FAA bill done and a bill dealing with patents, to get that bill done, because they create about 750,000, 800,000 jobs. This bill would create thousands of jobs. But I guess my friends on the other side of the aisle are more interested in messages than they are trying to get something done that will be good for the American people. So I have to file cloture on this bill.

I 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 17, S. 493, the SBIR and STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011.

Harry Reid, Mary L. Landrieu, John F. Kerry, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Michael F. Bennet, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Patrick J. Leahy, Carl Levin, Tom Harkin, Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Maria Cantwell, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Bill Nelson, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ron Wyden.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN J. MCCONNELL, JR., TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent to proceed to executive session and the nomination of John J. McConnell, Jr., of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John J. McConnell, Jr., of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk dealing with John McConnell.

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John J. McConnell, Jr., of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, John F. Kerry, Dianne Feinstein, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Amy Klobuchar, Barbara Boxer, Daniel K. Inouye, Mark Begich, Mark R. Warner, Kent Conrad, John D. Rockefeller IV, Richard J. Durbin, Ron Wyden.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at this time to waive the mandatory quorums under rule XXII with respect to both cloture motions.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume legislative session.

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

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hope, as I mentioned this morning, we are not in

a situation where we have to file cloture on district court judges. That is a little much. I filed cloture on this because I couldn't get agreement not to do it, but I hope we don't have to have cloture on all the district court judges whom somebody has some concern about.

This is a very good man. Morally his record is impeccable. As a lawyer, he is certainly one of the two or three best lawyers in the State of Rhode Island, and I would hope we could get this done on Wednesday when this cloture motion ripens.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE ELSWICK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Lawrence Elswick for his service to the United States. Mr. Elswick serves as a prime example of a man who truly puts others before himself.

Having spent the majority of his life in the small town of Big Creek, KY, Mr. Elswick has touched the lives of several Kentuckians. Whether he is fixing the plumbing in a neighbor's bathroom or giving away free vegetables from his garden, Lawrence never hesitates when offering a helping hand.

Although Lawrence came from a humble background, he allowed his upbringing to inspire him rather than hold him back. Having grown up as the oldest in a family with 8 children, Lawrence was molded into the leader that he still is today. Furthermore, Lawrence knows what it means to be truly dedicated. He has dedicated his life to serving his church, the people of the Commonwealth, and his country.

Because Lawrence has always selflessly given to others, it came as no surprise when he joined the Army during World War II and willingly risked his life to defend our country. He was among the heroes who bravely fought on Normandy Beach in 1944. At one point in time, Lawrence went missing in action and remained behind enemy lines for a week. It is because of his immense courage and great service to this Nation that I stand here today honoring his achievements. Lawrence has been awarded numerous medals because of his service in the U.S. Army. His collection of medals include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with four major stars, the Honorable Service Lapel Button, and the Presidential Citation Ribbon. Several of these medals are among the greatest honors that are bestowed upon our men and women in the service.

It is because of Lawrence's strong character, his dedication to his family and friends, and his giving spirit that the Commonwealth of Kentucky is so proud to call him one of our own.

The Appalachian News Express recently published an article commemorating Mr. Lawrence Elswick's service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and