

WELLSTONE in control of a total of 15 minutes; Senator LEAHY, 15 minutes; and Senator CLELAND, 15 minutes.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it will be the leader's intention following morning business to begin consideration of S. 767, the uniformed services tax filing fairness bill. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will reconvene on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. and begin a period of morning business until 1 p.m.

Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 767, a bill introduced by Senator COVERDELL and others regarding tax filing extensions for certain members of the uniformed services. Following passage of that bill, it will be the leader's intention to begin consideration of the budget resolution conference report. There are 10 hours for debate on the conference report, but it is hoped that a significant portion of that time will be yielded back.

Members should, therefore, expect rollcall votes throughout Wednesday's session of the Senate in relation to the Coverdell bill or any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COCHRAN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator DODD.

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

Mr. COCHRAN. I thank the distinguished Senator for his patience and his forbearance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

TRIP TO MACEDONIA AND NATO HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, during the recent spring recess, I took the opportunity to travel to Brussels, Belgium, to meet with NATO officials about the situation in Kosovo. Last week, I traveled to Macedonia in order to make a firsthand assessment of the refugee problem confronting that small nation.

While in Brussels, I received an assessment of the ongoing military campaign against Yugoslav military and security forces and strategic installations from Gen. Wesley Clark, commander of our NATO forces. I also discussed NATO's objectives with respect to Kosovo and the more than 600,000 Kosovars now displaced with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, NATO ambassadors, and NATO military officials.

I found that NATO ambassadors were unified in their resolve to stand up to Slobodan Milosevic. They expressed a willingness to carry on the air campaign for as long as it might take to degrade Serbian military and security forces.

Let me also say how deeply impressed I was with Gen. Wesley Clark, the supreme allied commander of NATO forces, our ambassador to NATO and their staffs. I urge colleagues who have the opportunity to go to Brussels and meet with these NATO officials to do so. At the end of next week, there will be a gathering of the NATO nations' leaders here in Washington to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the most important strategic alliance of the 20th century. I hope that my colleagues will take advantage of the opportunity created by that historic gathering to speak with as many of these ambassadors and NATO staff and personnel as possible about the situation in Kosovo.

After these meetings in Brussels, I traveled to Macedonia on a military aircraft that was bringing urgently needed supplies to the refugee camps. It was a long flight from Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany to Macedonia, and I was deeply impressed by the young crew and their hard work. Before I left Ramstein Air Force Base, General Brady and his staff gave me an excellent briefing on how they are helping to relieve the suffering of the men, women and children displaced from their homes in Kosovo.

In Macedonia, I met with United States Ambassador Chris Hill and his staff. Let me reiterate to our colleagues here how fortunate we are to have someone of Chris Hill's talents and abilities representing us in Macedonia, particularly at a time such as this. He is a career foreign service officer, has spent time in the Balkans, knows the region well and is handling a very difficult and tense situation with a great deal of energy, vision and creativity.

While I was in Macedonia, I also met with U.S. military personnel who are a part of a unit called Able Sentry. A brigadier general and his staff briefed me on their operations. Before hostilities broke out, Able Sentry was intended as the base facility for a peacekeeping force in Kosovo. Now, these American service men and women are leading NATO's efforts to help the refugees on the ground.

I also spent some time with the enlisted personnel who make up the unit to which three young servicemen, Sergeants Ramirez and Stone and Specialist Steven Gonzales were assigned before their illegal capture by Serbian forces.

I wish all of our colleagues could have joined me in that small room last Saturday to hear these young American servicemen talk with great pride

about the work of their colleagues Ramirez, Stone, and Gonzales. Ramirez, Stone and Gonzales were professionals doing a commendable job. When they were captured, they were not close to the Serbian border where they would have placed themselves and their units in any jeopardy. When I spoke with this unit of highly competent individuals just three days ago, they were deeply worried that Members of Congress in Washington would misunderstand the role that they were engaged in and the professionalism with which they were conducting their responsibilities. I assured them that my colleagues here, regardless of party, had a deep respect for the job they were doing and admire them immensely. And, like them, I pray for the safe return of their three comrades.

The service men and women I met with are committed to getting the job done, Mr. President. They know why they are there. They understand the seriousness and importance of this issue and are conducting their jobs with a high degree of professionalism.

I wanted to take a moment here on the floor to express my confidence in them and speak their names on the floor of the Senate, as I assured them I would. I urge my colleagues to do likewise and express their support for the hard and commendable job our men and women in uniform are doing.

Mr. President, the efforts of all of these men and women in Macedonia today are focused on alleviating the suffering of the thousands of people who have been forced from their homes by Slobodan Milosevic's reign of ethnic cleansing. I fear that I am not capable of fully describing the scene at the refugee camps. For a generation of us who were born at the end of World War II, the sites of a concentration camp or of the thousands of homeless people in Europe at the end of World War II rest securely in the domain of documentary films and Hollywood depictions.

Most of us in this Chamber have not had occasion to encounter firsthand the kinds of scenes that our fathers and grandfathers witnessed. Senators THURMOND and HOLLINGS of South Carolina, Senator INOUE, Senator CHAFEE, Senator LAUTENBERG, and others who were veterans of World War II can also speak of personal recollections of those days.

In the past few days, however, the images from documentary films half a century old became a reality for me. I was profoundly struck by the sight of 45,000 people gathered together in makeshift huts or tents in an area only slightly larger than half of the Mall here in Washington. They were lining up for food, water, medicine and other basic necessities, and using open trenches as latrines. Mr. President, it was a sight to which TV film footage,