May 24, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I have cleared this request. I ask unanimous consent that the time be extended until the hour of 1:30, and that at 1 I be recognized for 20 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The distinguished Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE

Mr. HAGEL. I thank the Chair, and I thank my friend and colleague from Utah for some additional time.

I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the modern American Foreign Service.

We have all traveled abroad. I have visited over 60 countries over the years. As many Americans, I have seen firsthand the dedication of professional Foreign Service officers to some of the most difficult and dangerous working environments in the world.

There is no longer any clear division between domestic and international issues. Transportation, trade, telecommunications, technology, and the Internet have changed all that.

As our Nation grew, it became more globally engaged. Over the last 200 years, year after year, America has become an international community. In 1860, we had only 33 diplomatic missions around the world. But we had 253 consular posts abroad, primarily involved in supporting our Nation’s dramatic economic growth and trade expansion. As America’s role in the world grew, we took on more responsibility. America’s diplomats are not only needed to draw from the broad strength of our democratic society. And that, too, grew.

The solution was the Rogers Act of 1924. This act created America’s first professional competitive Foreign Service. It merged the small, elite diplomatic corps with the more broadly based consular services. The Rogers Act established a merit-based examination system to recruit the best and brightest from the nation. Once again, the fundamental question that was not answered in the beginning, and has not been answered so far, which is still, “Will it work?”

I conclude by saying that the historical figure upon whom I called for the rationality of answering that question is Winston Churchill, the man who went to the front lines and saw that trench warfare was insanity and came back to become the father of the tank, who looked for another alternative. There must be something better than what is happening in Kosovo right now. Let us suspend the bombing and search for it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I have an additional 5 minutes under my control, which I yield to the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if the Senator from Nebraska will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. HAGEL. I am happy to yield to my colleague from North Dakota.