bed with an ache in their belly because they didn’t have enough to eat yesterday. Every single minute, up to eight children die—every single minute—because of the winds of hunger around the world. Yet our farmers are told somehow their food does not have value, and those poor people who live in these countries—Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, and Iraq—are told American food, by the way, is off limits to you because we do not like the way your leaders behave.

So you poor folks in those unfortunate countries, you can’t do much to kick Saddam Hussein out of Iraq, but we can prevent you from having access to American food. You can’t even buy what they didn’t have enough to eat yesterday, die with an ache in their belly because they are good friends; and they will grit their teeth and wring their hands and mop their brows—but I intend to offer this amendment. I have a right to do so.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GENERAL JOHN A. GORDON, U.S. AIR FORCE, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to executive session and proceed to the nomination of Gen. John A. Gordon, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gen. John A. Gordon, United States Air Force, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Who yields time?

If no one yields time, time will be charged equally to both sides. The distinguished Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. Under that ruling, without objection on my part, time will be charged equally to both sides. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, momentarily, we will vote on the nomination of a very distinguished citizen of our country. I want to elaborate on these few minutes about his distinguished career.

We know he has been nominated to be the first Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, as well as the first administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Department of Energy. We are all familiar with General Gordon’s record. He took on challenging assignments over these years in the Department of Defense and currently is Deputy Director for the Central Intelligence Agency.

I would like to go back and give a brief history of the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the position for which General Gordon has been nominated.

The Administration was established by title 32 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000. That consolidated all of the national security functions of the Department of Energy under a single, semi-autonomous organizational unit. This reorganization represents the most significant reorganization of the Department of Energy in more than 20 years.

The Congress did not take this action lightly. We established this new entity in response to a multitude of reports and assessments which called for changes in the Department of Energy’s "dysfunctional," "organization structure.

The reports include the 1997 "120-day study" issued by the Institute for Defense Analysis, the 1999 Chiles Commission report, and the 1999 Foster Panel report—just to mention a few. However, the most compelling report was issued by President Clinton’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board in June 1999. That bipartisan report stated that:

... real and lasting security and counterintelligence reform at the weapons labs is simply unworkable without a new structure and culture. To achieve the kind of protection that these sensitive labs must have, they and their functions must have their own autonomous operational structure free of all the other obligations imposed by DOE management.

The President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board went on to make the following recommendations to the President and Congress, (1) create a new semi-autonomous agency and (2) streamline the management of the DOE weapons labs management structure by abolishing ties between the weapons labs and all DOE regional, field and site offices, and all contractor intermediaries. The committee was very careful to fully implement the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board’s bipartisan recommendations, exactly as they were presented to President Clinton.

The overarching goal was to establish, for the first time in many years, a clear chain of command for the Department’s nuclear security programs. Some disagree with the final product, but I believe we accomplished that goal. It is now time for General Gordon to make this new entity work.

I have been trying for some weeks to get this nomination up. Just think: Last year, we passed structural reforms. It was signed into law by the President. And here we are almost a year later—just today—about to confirm the President’s nominee to head this new entity.

We have vested a considerable amount of authority in the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration; that is, General Gordon. We trust that he will use it in the best of U.S. national security.

I have known this distinguished fine man very well over the months that I have worked with him in connection with this nomination. I can tell the Senate without any equivocation that I do not
know of a more qualified person, a man whose background, whose achievements, whose very step in life better qualifies him, including a character I think that is beyond question, to take on this important responsibility.

With regard to some details about him, the general entered the Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1968.

His early assignments were in research and development and acquisition where he was involved in improving the Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missile—ICBM—and in developing and acquiring the Peacekeeper ICBM. He served with the U.S. Department of State in the politico-military affairs. Later, he commanded the 90th Strategic Missile Wing, the only Peacekeeper ICBM unit. He served in the National Security Council in the areas of defense and arms control, including oversight and completion of START II negotiations. The general then became senior member of the staff of the Secretary of Defense, and later the Director of Air Force Space Command, responsible for overseeing and developing policy and guidance for the command’s operational missions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the biographic nomination of General Gordon.

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

BIOGRAPHY—GENERAL JOHN A. GORDON

General John A. Gordon is deputy director of central intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C.

The general entered the Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1968. Air Force commissioned, General Gordon has served his country for more than 30 years, most recently as the Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was recommended for this position by a panel of highly qualified experts headed by former Deputy Secretary of Energy Charles Curtis.

It is hard to imagine an individual with more experience than General Gordon with all aspects of the nuclear forces of the United States. During his long and distinguished career in the United States Air Force, General Gordon worked in the research and development of nuclear weapons programs as a physicist and technician; he is familiar with the operational requirements of our nuclear forces from his tours of duty with U.S. strategic missile forces, including service as vice commander and commander of a Strategic Missile Wing; and he worked at the highest policy levels of the Executive Branch during his four years on the National Security Council as special assistant to the President for national security affairs and senior director for defense policy and arms control.

Upon confirmation, General Gordon will take on one of the most challenging assignments in the federal government.

The Administrator of the new National Nuclear Security Administration is responsible for maintaining the safety and reliability of our nation’s nuclear warheads; for addressing security problems that continue to undermine public confidence in the Department of Energy; for managing the Department of Energy laboratories; and for cleaning up some of the worst environmental problems in the country.

Moreover, the Administrator will face these assignments as the head of an agency so plagued with “confused, confusing and contradictory” reporting channels that the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board last year characterized the entire Department of Energy as a “dysfunctional” organization. Although I believe that some of the legislation Congress has passed and is currently considering will make General Gordon’s job harder and not easier, I pledge to work with General Gordon, Secretary
Richardson and my colleagues in the Congress to do everything I can to give General Gordon the support he will need to be successful in this demanding job.

I think all of us appreciate General Gordon’s willingness to serve his country on this continuing basis and to take on a very difficult assignment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to show my support for General John Gordon to be the Director of the National Nuclear Security Administration or the NNSA. But before I do that, I need to mention a related item, the lack of security protections at the Los Alamos lab.

On Monday, June 12, the New York Times reported that computer hard drives containing valuable nuclear weapons data and other highly sensitive information were found missing from the Los Alamos National Laboratory on May 7th. These classified hard drives were stored in locked containers in a vault at the weapons X Division at the lab. The containers were found but the hard drives are gone. According to reports, the material missing is American nuclear weapons data that the Nuclear Emergency Search Team needs to disarm nuclear devices during emergencies. Also missing is the intelligence information on the Russian nuclear weapons program. To make matters worse, the lab did not begin an intensive search until May 24.

I realize that people were focused on that, but that a fire was raging in the area and that aensive search until May 24. I realize that any such incident must be reported to the Department of Energy within 8 hours. Finally, DOE headquaters was informed of the missing data on June 1.

While it may seem premature to speculate foul play, I must say that neither DOE nor the Administration have a strong track record in the area of safeguards and security. Unfortunately, this is not the first incident of lax security during this Administration.

Here are just a few of the reported incidents.

March 1999—It was determined that the Chinese had penetrated Los Alamos Laboratory and stole our nuclear secrets.

Last December—A Russian diplomat is ordered to leave after a microphone transmitter is discovered on the 7th floor of the State Department, only a short walk from the office of Secretary Albright.

Then there is the case of the missing laptops at the State Department and the situation with the former CIA Director, John Deutch, who since has lost all his clearances, of mishandling classified information.

While not all these cases are related to the newly created NNSA, they do show that a new attitude and new ethic must be incorporated into this Administration. We have had too many problems at too many places.

That is why I am glad that General Gordon is finally being voted on by this Senate. I am sorry that this vote took so long to take place. This vote was objected to by some who wanted to give that deal a few items in the Defense authorization bill relating to the NNSA. It was my belief there would be obstacles in this job, but I never believed it would happen before he got to the NNSA. However, now that the objection to General Gordon’s nomination has been lifted, we can finally move this nomination. Gen. Gordon’s position is far too valuable to be made a political pawn and the latest incident at Los Alamos proves that.

Also, I let him know that I don’t expect miracles. I just expect our national security to be treated as such. No longer should science and personnel matters outrank security. We must change this culture and believe that General Gordon is the right person for this job. I want to thank Gen. Gordon for his dedication and commitment to his country and for serving in this new position.

Lastly, Mr. President, I look forward to the hearings on the latest incident at the lab. For too long I have heard this administration crowing that they are taking care of the security problems, but this latest incident shows that their actions don’t match their words. While this administration crowed they attempted to undermine what Congress had done last year to strengthen security in the Department of Energy through amendments in the Strategic Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. As chairman of that committee, I was appalled at the action of Democrat members of the committee as well in their attempts to stop the nomination of General Gordon. We must and will get to the bottom of our nation’s security problems.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

All time having expired, the question, yeas and nays 0, as follows:

YEAS—97

Abraham
Akaka
Alaska
Ashcroft
Baucus
Bayh
Baucus
Biden
Bingaman
Bond
Boxer
Breaux
Brownback
Bryce
Running
Burns
Byrd
Campbell
Chafee, L.
Cleland
Cochran
Collins
Conrad
Coverdell
Craig
Crapo
Daschle
DeWine
Dodd
Domenici
Dorgan
Durbin
Edwards
Enzi
Evans
FEINSTEIN
Fitzgerald
Frist
Gorton
Graham
Grams
Grasso
Gregg
Hagel
Harkin
Hollings
Hutchison
Inhofe
Inouye
Jeffords
Johnson
Kennedy
Kerry
Kerry
Kohl
Kyl
Landrieu
Lautenberg
Leahy
Levin
Lieberman
Lincoln
Lott
Lugar
Mack
McCain
McClellan
Markowski
Murray
Nickles
Reid
Risch
Robb
Sanford
Santorum
Sarbanes
Schantz
Sessions
Shelby
Smith (OH)
Smith (OK)
Snowe
Specter
Stevens
Thomas
Thompson
Thurmond
Torricelli
Voinovich
Warner
Welstone
Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we are discussing an agreement as to how to proceed. We need to actually get it typed up where everybody can review it. I say to Senator Daschle, I will make some remarks commending the gentleman’s movement to South Carolina. I thought he might want to join me in that. I will take some leader time to do that while we get the final look at the agreement.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HONORING JIM TALBERT’S RETIREMENT FROM SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me make a very important correction. The gentleman I am going to speak about briefly is going to be moving to South Dakota, not South Carolina. He obviously likes cooler weather and not hot weather. He deserves to be able to go