CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

June 20, 2000

Mr. DURBIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3475

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the Senate will now debate for 4 minutes evenly divided the Dodd amendment relating to Cuba. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, this amendment establishes a 12-member bipartisan commission to review Cuba policy. An amendment to the amendment, with respect to how that policy might be altered to best serve the interests of the United States.

Mr. President, I will not read the documents, but I will leave them for my colleagues’ consideration: A letter signed by Howard Baker, Frank Carlucci, Henry Kissinger, Malcolm Wallow, along with 26 colleagues, 16 from the floor, a letter from George Shultz, and one from the leading dissident groups inside Cuba calling for the commission to try to take a look at U.S.-Cuban policy.

It is time to stop, in my view, the absurd fixation we have on one individual and to remove an important foreign policy issue from the small but powerful group that doesn’t allow us to think what is in our best interest as a nation. We ought to listen to foreign policy experts. This commission is not predetermined; it is not shackled. It may very well come back, but it recommends a continuation of the embargo. But it seems to me we ought to at least listen.

We are watching the Koreans come together. We are watching advances in the Middle East. Today, we are watching efforts around the world to bring people together to resolve historic differences.

Today, Pete Peterson, former POW, represents U.S. interests as our Ambassador in Vietnam. Does that mean we agree with the policies of the Vietnamese Government? No. We recognize, by trying to tear down the walls that have historically divided us, we can try to build a better relationship between the two countries. We will soon be voting on whether or not to have a trading relationship with China. We are watching improvements in the Middle East. Northern Ireland brings hope for resolution.

All I am asking with this amendment—has been recommended by Secretaries of Defense, Secretaries of State, 26 of our colleagues, in a bipartisan letter to the President only a few months ago—is to establish a commission to examine U.S.-Cuban policies to see if we can’t come up with some better answers than the historic debate which has divided us on this issue.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. I yield myself 1 minute.

It is not our fault that Cuba is repressive. It is Castro who is to blame. Appeasing Castro by instituting the commission whose stated objective is to lift the embargo without Castro having undertaken any reforms is nothing more than a unilateral and unwarranted concession to a regime which refuses to concede even the smallest effort to reform human rights.

This is not the appropriate vehicle for this bill, the Armed Services Committee. There are other important policy issues which we need to deal. Cuba should first change its policy toward its own people, and after that, the United States can change its policy toward Cuba.

I yield to Senator MACK.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote to table this amendment. It is blatantly political in its nature. Of the 12 positions, 8 will be determined by the Democratic Party and 4 by the Republicans; 6 by the President, 2 by the majority in each of the Houses, 1 by the minority in each. That is 8 of 12—two-thirds.

We should not, today, be telling the next President of the United States what his policy should be with respect to Cuba. This Congress and this President should not.

Third, I only had the opportunity to speak with Frank Carlucci and Howard Baker. While they accept the concept of a commission, they don’t support one that is so blatantly political, and they don’t support one being established at this time.

I ask my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I move to table the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Mr. DODD. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table the amendment No. 3475. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 137 Leg.]

YEARS—59

Abraham
Allard
Ashcroft
Bennett
Bond
Brownback
Bunning
Burns
Campbell
Chafee
Coelho
Collins
Couric
Craig
Crapo
C. DettWine
Domenici
Enzi
Frist
Gorton
Graham
Graham
Grassley

NAYS—41

Akaka
Baucus
Bayh
Biden
Bingaman
Boxer
Breaux
Byrd
Cirand
Conrad
Daschle
Dodd
Durbin

Bunning
Bunister
Burns
Camden
Chafee
Chesley
Coelho
Collins
Couric
Craig
Crapo
C. DettWine
Domenici
Enzi
Frist
Gorton
Graham
Graham
Grassley

Bunister
Burns
Camden
Chesley
Coelho
Collins
Couric
Craig
Crapo
C. DettWine
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Grassley

Brownback
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Campbell
Chafee
Coelho
Collins
Couric
Craig
Crapo
C. DettWine
Domenici
Enzi
Frist
Gorton
Graham
Graham
Grassley

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to table was agreed to.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. SANTORUM. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS ON WINNING THE 2000 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 324, introduced earlier today by Senator BOXER and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 324) to commend and congratulate the Los Angeles Lakers for their outstanding drive, discipline, and mastery in winning the 2000 National Basketball Association Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I join my distinguished colleague from California, Senator BARBARA BOXER, in commending and congratulating the Los Angeles Lakers for their outstanding season which was culminated last night in winning the 2000 National Basketball Association Championship.

Without a doubt, the Los Angeles Lakers are one of the finest franchises in the history of professional sports. In defeating a gritty and hard-nosed Indiana Pacers team last night, the Lakers capped their twelfth NBA Championship in the true spirit of their “Showtime” years.

The Los Angeles Lakers are a true sporting dynasty. They are the second
winningest team in NBA history. Their record of 67–15, the best regular season record in the NBA’s Eastern and Western Conferences
Led by coach Phil Jackson, Shaquille O’Neal and Kobe Bryant the Lakers are a formidable opponent. Shaquille O’Neal was named league Most Valuable Player, led the league in scoring and field goal percentage, won the IBM Award for greatest overall contribution to a team, and became just the sixth player in the game’s history to be a unanimous selection to the All-NBA First team.

Shaquille O’Neal was also named Most Valuable Player of the 2000 All Star game scoring 22 points and collecting 9 rebounds. And he also dominated the 2000 playoffs scoring 38 points per game in the NBA Finals on his way to winning the Most Valuable Player award.

Another top player was the 21-year-old phenom, Kobe Bryant, who overcame injuries to average more than 22 points a game in the regular season and was named to the NBA All-Defensive First Team. Kobe Bryant’s eight point performance in the overtime of game 4 led the Lakers to one of the most dramatic wins in playoff history.

Coach Phil Jackson, winner of seven NBA Championship rings and a playoff winning percentage of .718, has proven to be one of the most innovative and adaptable coaches in the NBA.

And when you add to this terrific trio and strong supporting cast—including Glenn Rice, A.C. Green, Ron Harper, Robert Horry, Rick Fox, Derrick Fisher, Brian Shaw, Devean George, Tyrone Lue, John Celestand, Travis Knight, and John Salley—the recipe for a championship was written.

Finally, the Los Angeles Lakers team owner Dr. Jerry Buss, General Manager Jerry West and all the others who worked so hard to return the championship magic to the City of Angeles. But most of all, I would like to congratulate the myriad of Lakers fans who have pulled for this team through it all.

The 1999-2000 Los Angeles Lakers will go down in history with those legendary teams of the past. And we can add the names of Shaquille O’Neal and Kobe Bryant to the tapestry of Laker greats—George Mikan, Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and the incomparable Earvin “Magic” Johnson.

These Lakers demonstrated immeasurable determination, heart, stamina, and an amazing comeback ability in their drive for the championship. They have made the City of Los Angeles and the State of California proud.

The Los Angeles Lakers have started the 21st century meeting the high standards they established in the 20th century. In the years ahead, I have no doubt that this team will add numerous championship banners to the rafters of the Staples Center.

Senator Boxer and I thought it would be fitting to offer this resolution today.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the new reigning champions of the National Basketball Association—California’s own Los Angeles Lakers.

The tradition of greatness continues in Los Angeles. Building on the excellence personified by the likes of Jerry and Wilt the Silt, and later by Magic and Kareem, today’s Lakers regained that status by players known around the world by two words: “Kobe” and “Shaq.”

What can you say about Shaquille O’Neal? He is the most dominating force in the game today. He was the most valuable player in the All-Star Game, the regular season and the NBA finals.

Kobe Bryant has that creative, slashing style that is pure excitement. The way he fought through injuries to spark the Lakers was an inspiration.

And Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge the rest of the Lakers team. The steady hand and championship experience of Ron Harper was crucial. Robert Harry’s stifling defense, strong rebounding and opportunistic scoring were key. Rick Fox, whose ten years’ experience and clutch three-pointer in the waning moments of Game Six were invaluable. The persistent of Glenn Rice was matched only by the beauty of his jump shot. A.C. Green, who came back to the Lakers for this championship season, reminded us of his original “Showtime” days when he was running the wing with Magic and Worthy. And Brian Shaw and Derek Fisher made big shots and took care of the ball during minutes off the bench. What a team.

Finally, the man who brought all of these elements together, is simply the best of all time—the man they call Zen master, coach Phil Jackson.

The Lakers victories were made more special by their ability to overcome their opponents. Larry Bird and the Indiana Pacers respect the basketball fans everywhere.

Mr. President, on behalf of millions of adoring Angelenos, California and basketball fans everywhere, I congratulate the new reigning champions of the National Basketball Association.

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers have won 12 National Basketball Association Championships;

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are the second winningest team in National Basketball Association history;

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers, at 67-15, posted the best regular season record in the National Basketball Association;

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers have fielded such superstars as George Mikan, Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Earvin “Magic” Johnson, and now, Shaquille O’Neal and Kobe Bryant;

Whereas Shaquille O’Neal led the league in scoring and field goal percentage on his way to winning the National Basketball Association’s Most Valuable Player award, winning the IBM Award for greatest overall contribution to a team, and becoming just the sixth player in the history of the game to be a unanimous selection to the All-National Basketball Association First Team;

Whereas Shaquille O’Neal was named Most Valuable Player of the 2000 All Star Game, scoring 22 points and collecting 9 rebounds;

Whereas Shaquille O’Neal dominated the 2000 playoffs averaging 38 points per game and was the Most Valuable Player award in the National Basketball Association Finals;

Whereas Kobe Bryant overcame injuries to average more than 22 points a game in the regular season and was named to the National Basketball Association All-Defensive First Team;

Whereas Kobe Bryant’s 8-point performance in the overtime of Game 4 led the Los Angeles Lakers to 1 of the most dramatic wins in playoff history;

Whereas Coach Phil Jackson, who has won 7 National Basketball Association rings and the highest playoff winning percentage in league history, has proven to be 1 of the most innovative and adaptable coaches in the National Basketball Association;

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers epitomize Los Angeles pride with their determination, heart, stamina, and amazing comeback ability;

Whereas the support of all the Los Angeles fans, and the people of California helped make winning the National Basketball Association Championship possible; and

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers have started the 21st century meeting the high standards they established in the 20th century; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate congratulates the Los Angeles Lakers on winning the 2000 National Basketball Association Championship Title.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

MR. WARNER. Mr. President, I am prepared to address a series of amendments to the desk which have been cleared by myself and the ranking member. Therefore, I ask unanimous

S. Res. 324

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are one of the greatest sports franchises ever;