

(The remarks of Mr. McCAIN and Mr. WYDEN are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

AMENDMENT NO. 1735

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1735, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] proposes an amendment numbered 1735.

(Purpose: To add an expression of the sense of the Senate on comprehensive national energy legislation that ensures the availability of adequate energy supplies to the Armed Forces)

On page 47, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

(e) SENSE OF SENATE ON AVAILABILITY OF ENERGY-RELATED SUPPLIES FOR THE ARMED FORCES.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Senate should, before the adjournment of the first session of the 107th Congress, take action on comprehensive national energy security legislation, including energy production and energy conservation measures, to ensure that there is an adequate supply of energy for the Armed Forces.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am going to reread that because this is very simple. This is not the comprehensive amendment I had which would have put H.R. 4 into the Defense authorization bill.

There is no one in this Chamber who wants to have a Defense authorization bill more than I do. I will not jeopardize that. However, this amendment is simply a sense of the Senate on availability of energy-related supplies for the Armed Forces. It is the sense of the Senate that the Senate should, before the adjournment of the first session of the 107th Congress, take action on the comprehensive national energy security legislation, including energy production and energy conservation measures, to ensure there is an adequate supply of energy for the Armed Forces.

The reason I am bringing this issue up is I cannot imagine that someone would not want to support it. Right now we are, as we all know—you have heard me say this many times—56.6-percent dependent upon foreign sources of oil for our ability to fight a war. Roughly half of that comes from the Middle East and the largest, fastest growing contributor to energy, to oil that is imported by the United States, is Iraq.

So what we are saying is we are dependent upon Iraq for our ability to fight a war against Iraq. Now, that is insane.

The very least we can do is recognize that energy is a national defense issue. So I ask for the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on this amendment?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:36 a.m., recessed until 10:54 a.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska).

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, before we recessed subject to the call of the Chair, I called up amendment No. 1735. I want to read it again because, as I stated before, to even consider that our energy dependence upon foreign sources is not a defense issue I think is ludicrous.

Instead of offering the long amendment, I have merely offered a sense-of-the-Senate amendment that says:

Sense of Senate on Availability of Energy-Related Supplies for the Armed Forces.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Senate should, before the adjournment of the first session of the 107th Congress, take action on comprehensive national energy security legislation, including energy production and energy conservation measures, to ensure that there is an adequate supply of energy for the Armed Forces.

I think the strongest point we can make about our dependency upon the Middle East is the fact that the most rapidly growing contributor to our energy supply in the Middle East, Iraq, is a country with which we are at war. It is absurd not to at least make this commitment as a sense of the Senate to get this done.

I ask this amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I make a motion that the Chair rule this amendment is dilatory.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator withhold that motion for just a moment so I can ask a question?

Mr. REID. I will be happy to.

Mr. INHOFE. I assure you, if you make the motion and the Chair rules it is not in order—I think if the Chair read it very carefully, it would be in order, but if it rules that it is not in

order, I will not challenge the ruling of the Chair for obvious reasons. I do want as much as anyone in the Senate an authorization to pass, and pass quickly. I know if we had that motion and overruled the ruling of the Chair, that would open it up and it would be disaster and we would not get a bill. So I would not do that. I am not going to.

I ask you not make that motion, but if you do make the motion, I encourage the Chair to realize and read—this is not the amendment I had before. This is merely directly relating to defense.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been advised by my friend from Delaware he wishes to speak, and of course postcloture he has a right to speak for up to an hour. I would not stand in his way of doing that, so I withdraw my previous point of order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wanted to speak on a matter of strategic airlift capability, but I do not want to get in the way of the sense-of-the-Senate amendment of the Senator from Oklahoma. I would like to say this, if I could. Obviously, we are not going to vote on the energy package that the House passed as an amendment to this bill. The Senator from Oklahoma and I have spoken. I don't think that is appropriate. Having said that, if we have not learned any other lesson from the events of 3 weeks ago, I hope we have learned that this country needs an energy policy.

I finished my active-duty tour of the Navy in 1973 and went to the University of Delaware on the GI bill. My first recollection of being in Newark, DE, was sitting in a line trying to buy gas for my car. That was 28 years ago. We did not have an energy policy then; we don't have an energy policy today; and we need one today a lot more than we did then.

Mr. President, 28 years ago about a third of the oil we consumed in this Nation was coming from places outside of our Nation's border. Today it is almost 60 percent, and we still have no energy policy. My hope is that by the time we adjourn from this first session later this year, we will have taken up the legislation we are working on in the Energy Committee on which I serve and be in a position to go to conference with the House on a very important matter.

Mr. INHOFE. I say to my friend from Delaware, that is exactly what this amendment does. It is a sense of the Senate to do exactly what he has suggested. I certainly think it would be appropriate at this time to include this sense-of-the-Senate amendment.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I retain my time. Whether this is germane or not I don't know, but I know the issue is relevant and it is an important issue for our country and for this body. It is my hope, speaking to my friend and