

of one or two votes passed a highly partisan bill that says it is still going to be contracted out. They say: Don't worry; we will federally oversee the contracting. But if the whole Nation's economy hinges on getting the public to believe it is safe to get back into an airliner and fly, are we not wasting precious minutes every day we are at loggerheads with the House of Representatives? We have a 100-0 vote here; they have virtually a split vote of 215 each. Why not look at what is best for the country?

How many more newspaper stories do we have to read, as we have in the last couple of days, about the stun guns, the knives, and the box cutters getting through security. How much more do we have to read before it convinces us and convinces the body at the other end of this United States Capitol that it is time to put aside their philosophical positions, their partisan positions, and pass something into law so we can restore the confidence of the American people.

I share these thoughts after considering this very important intelligence legislation, all of which is very necessary to the security of this country, as is the airline security bill important to the security of this country, both economically and as we take on the terrorists.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. EDWARDS). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order entered setting the vote at 2 p.m. be modified to allow the vote to occur at 1:55 p.m.

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

Mr. REID. 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. MURKOWSKI. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to speak as in morning business for about 20 minutes.

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

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I do not think there is any question about the condition of this country. We are clearly a nation at war. As we look at the instability, the uncertainty of regions of the world, regions where many of the nations that want to destroy Israel and the U.S. reside, the reality is these particular areas of the world are ones on which we are growing more dependent all the time.

It is no secret to the occupant of the chair that we are now 57 percent dependent on imported oil. However, during the 1970s, we were about 34 percent dependent on oil. Some remember the inconvenience of the gas lines around the block. This was at a time of conflict in the Mideast, the Yom Kippur War. Americans were outraged. They were indignant. How could it possibly happen in our Nation that we should be so inconvenienced?

So there we were, in the 1970s, 33 percent dependent; today we 57 percent dependent, and the Department of Energy indicates by the year 2010 we are going to be somewhere in the area of 66 percent dependent.

We are, in my opinion, held hostage by the same interests that seek to destroy and uproot Israel. Through our energy policies of dependence, we have tipped the scales and given tremendous power to extremists in the Mideast. We are only making Iran, Iraq, and Libya, perhaps, stronger. Is that our wish?

What happens if the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fails? There is almost a parallel occurring in that country between what happened in Iran 30 years ago with the fall of the Shah. When it occurred, the Shah was one of America's greatest allies. What happened was his regime came down as a consequence of corruption, a concentration of too much wealth in too few hands. That situation is very much evident in Saudi Arabia today.

I might add, if we look to bin Laden followers, a number of them have come from Saudi Arabia. As we examine the background of those responsible for the aircraft that went into the Pentagon and the Trade Centers, we find they have connections. Some are actually from Saudi Arabia.

Now, I am not condemning Saudi Arabia by any means. I am simply drawing a comparison. As our dependence on imported oil increases, we focus more on Saudi Arabia because that is where the significant supply of petroleum in the world exists. We are becoming more vulnerable as their regime becomes more unstable.

Furthermore, we are importing a million barrels of oil a day from Iraq. Now, what is the uniqueness of Iraq? We happen to enforce a no-fly zone over Iraq. We are putting our men's and women's lives at stake to ensure that Iraq stays within the constraints of the U.N. sanctions. Yet we know they have

moved beyond those constraints, that they are selling oil outside the U.N. oversight, illegally in that sense.

So here we are, we are taking their oil and we are enforcing a no-fly zone over Iraq. We put the oil in our aircraft and then we go and enforce that no-fly zone by taking out some of their targets. We almost had one of our interceptor aircraft shot down a few weeks ago. What does Saddam Hussein do with the money? He pays his Republican Guards to keep him alive and develops missile capability with biological warheads aimed at our ally, Israel.

Is this part of our foreign policy or is it because we have no other choice than to depend on Iraq for a certain amount of our imported oil? I am not suggesting we might funnel some of the money for terrorist attacks to keep Saddam Hussein in charge, but one has to wonder what his future holds. We must address this dependence with a new sense of urgency, a new sense of purpose. To ensure our energy security, we must put in place solutions that begin and end at home. In my opinion, the sooner the better.

There are tremendous resources and ingenuity in this country. Our balanced, bipartisan energy plan puts them to work. It adjusts fuel economy standards; encourages conservation, provides incentives for the development of advanced newer, cleaner alternative fuels, and encourages the use of our own energy supplies.

I know the occupant of the chair would be disappointed if I didn't bring up the issue of ANWR and what kind of a contribution this can make. Clearly, we can open this area safely, effectively, and quickly. What does it hold? Somewhere between 5.6 and 16 billion barrels—enough oil to replace what we would import from Saudi Arabia in a 30-year period of time. All the economic benefits are there. When I say "employment," perhaps 200,000 jobs.

There is the potential of revenue to the Federal Government from lease sales amounting to about \$2.6 billion. This is a stimulus. It would not cost the Federal Government one red cent.

Our President has said energy is one of our two key components to a strong stimulus package necessary to get this economy growing again, somewhat like the old Lee Iacocca ad. If you can find a better economic stimulus that adds jobs to our economy, billions to our gross national product, and will not cost the taxpayer one red cent, go buy it.

The problem is reluctance in this body. The House has done its job and passed H.R. 4. The Democratic leader has not seen fit to bring this bill or schedule this bill before this body. Apparently, there is no indication from him as to his intentions. It appears he shut the door on the Energy Committee actions. I happen to be ranking member. We have not had markup on