

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 our leader from Nevada, that before we leave here we will have taken up and passed a comprehensive energy policy for our country, which we desperately need.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have spoken to the majority leader many times in the last week about this issue of energy policy. The majority leader, myself, and Senator LEVIN—if he were here—recognize the importance of developing an energy policy. I agree with my friend from Delaware.

I was Lieutenant Governor of the State of Nevada during that time. I came back and had meetings with Vice President Ford as a representative of the National Lieutenant Governors Conference. The purpose of that meeting was to talk about energy.

The first energy czar was a man named Bill Simon, who later came to the Department of Energy.

There is no question we need to do something about energy policy in this country. There is no question about it. Senator DASCHLE, the majority leader, realizes that. He wants to move to an energy bill just as quickly as is possible. But we have lots of problems in this country as a result of what happened on September 11 in New York.

It only exacerbates the problem as it relates to energy. We understand that. I have spoken to Senator BINGAMAN several times in the past week. He is doing his very best to report out a bill. I have spoken to the minority leader. The place that Republicans and Democrats want to go is basically the same. Probably 75 to 80 percent of the things that both parties want energywise we can all agree on. Some of the other things we can't agree on. One example, of course, is ANWR, which is a real problem.

We understand the intentions of the Senator from Oklahoma. I have spoken to him many times on this issue.

The majority leader is going to get to the energy bill—hopefully this year—as quickly as he can. We know we have to do something with an airline safety bill. We have a stimulus package. We have workers who have been displaced. We have to do something about that. We have to finish this very important Defense bill. It is important. We are so happy that the Senate invoked cloture. We have 13 appropriations bills we have to complete. We have a lot of work to do. The majority leader recognizes that more than anybody else.

Mr. President, I make a point of order that the amendment filed by my friend from Oklahoma is dilatory.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is well taken. The amendment falls.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I don't know what the order is right now. The Senator from Delaware may have the floor. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The floor is open.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I understand what the Senator from Nevada, the distinguished assistant majority leader, said. The problem is that we have been talking about this now—I personally, since the eighties when then-Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel and I would tour the Nation to explain to the Nation that our dependency on foreign sources of oil for our ability to fight a war was not an energy issue; it was a national security issue. At that time, we were 37-percent dependent on foreign sources of oil for