

prescription drug benefit. We want to lower prices. There are ways to do it. We can do it now. I ask my colleagues to join with us in this effort.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

GERALD B.H. SOLOMON FREEDOM CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 3167. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3167) to endorse the vision of further enlargement of the NATO Alliance articulated by President George W. Bush on June 15, 2001, and by former President William J. Clinton on October 22, 1996, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana is recognized.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. FEINGOLD, be added as a cosponsor of S. 1572.

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

Mr. LUGAR. As I understand the parliamentary situation, time is controlled by Senator BIDEN and myself for half of the time remaining until 10:30, and Senator WARNER of Virginia controls the other half; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. LUGAR. Would that be approximately 12 minutes each at this point?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is 11 minutes each.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, last evening in the debate, we had a good discussion of the need for the Senate to affirm through this action today that NATO should be expanded as a general principle. We also established that there ought to be very careful criteria for that expansion and examination of each of the candidates, as opposed to a done deal at the end of the trail, in which the Senate then receives a treaty without that careful examination country by country.

I have appreciated the colloquy with the Senator from Virginia, Senator BIDEN, and myself in which I think we established both of those facts—the desirability for a more robust NATO, and that would include more members, likewise—members that in fact carry their weight. As the Senator from Virginia pointed out, Americans may be involved in an article 5 declaration to defend those countries that would come in. In addition, we would anticipate that they would defend us.

Madam President, I point out that we are having this debate at this point very largely because the President of the United States has asked us to have it. Likewise, we have received correspondence from the Secretary of

State and the Secretary of Defense pointing out how imperative it is that we take this action to affirm that the United States stands solidly in terms of expansion of NATO and the careful consideration of its membership.

The act we discuss today also has money for seven candidates, on the presumption that these are serious candidates, that this money will make a difference in terms of training, interoperability of equipment, the general proposition as partners for peace. These nations have demonstrated great interest in the alliance and therefore deserve our help.

We pointed out last evening, in fact, the money was appropriated last December—the money is out there. This is the authorization of the money. Some have asked, is the authorization following too far behind? Our response is, no, if we take action.

This is why the President wants this action prior to his taking a very important trip to the summit with President Putin in Russia next week.

Madam President, I hope that today we will join in support of the Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001 because this bill provides assistance to the nations, as I mentioned. It gives us an opportunity for Congress to affirm our solidarity with our allies and our confidence in the future of the alliance.

I point out that our own President, George Bush, gave an important speech last year in Warsaw in which he said:

All of Europe's new democracies from the Baltic to the Black Sea and all that lie between should have the same chance for security and freedom.

He went on to say he believed "in NATO membership for all of Europe's democracies that seek it and are ready to share the responsibility that NATO brings."

The cold war may be over, but the security and welfare of America and Europe are very closely linked, and our common goal must continue to be the building of a Europe which is whole and free.

I mentioned in the debate last evening my own visits last September to the three Baltic States—Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania—and Romania, and Bulgaria to visit with leadership about the specific criteria. That visit has been replicated by other Senators, most recently by our Ambassador to NATO, Mr. Burns, who has laid out a very concrete plan for each of those nations to affirm their interest and to give us a basis to judge that interest.

I finally point out that NATO is a truly remarkable institution because its members have joined together to assure that the ideals we share—we have a collective, moral, and military strength—are enhanced in the world at a time of the war on terrorism, at a time in which literally the dispute as to whether out of area or out of business has gone by the boards.

The war is out of area, by definition. The threats are all over the world. The need for flexibility and for more of us

to be involved is apparent. As President Bush pointed out, that means filling in the geography of Europe—Romania and Bulgaria and the southeast part—which is so important as a link not only to Greece and Turkey, our allies, but to the Middle East. The Baltic States were altogether mischaracterized by the former Soviet Union. They were always independent. We reaffirm that is the case. We see this as a cardinal principle of this legislation.

Finally, I point out that NATO is the alliance that places us in Europe. We are not a part of the European Union. We are a part of the transatlantic military alliance with headquarters in Brussels, with an American who has been in charge for many years. It is tremendously important. We appreciate Europe, and NATO is the major way in which we indicate that appreciation and participation.

The question now is, Should we expand that to countries that have taken on democracy, have taken on defense responsibilities, have shown through the Partnership for Peace their eagerness and their willingness to be with us?

My answer is in the affirmative, and I hope the Senate will vote overwhelmingly in favor of this action today that our President be fortified as he proceeds into important diplomacy.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I yield to our distinguished colleague from Texas 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair, and I thank the Senator from Virginia.

It is very important for the United States and Europe to have the kind of alliance that NATO has been. It has been the greatest defensive alliance in the history of the world, but I feel as if I am experiencing *deja vu* all over again.

The Senate is once again considering a measure to endorse the expansion of NATO without having satisfactorily addressed any of the same questions that loomed over the alliance 4 years ago when we made the first recent expansion.

In April of 1998, this body voted to expand NATO without articulating a rationale for NATO in the post-cold-war era, without calculating a reliable estimate of the cost of the expansion, without establishing an interalliance dispute resolution process, without evaluating the militaries of the respective candidates to see what they offered and where their problems were, and without determining how the alliance can effectively coordinate military action amongst an even larger and more unwieldy membership.

Here we are in 2002 with the same questions unanswered, and yet we are on the cusp of enlarging again. I have never thought that any of my concerns about the structure and purpose of NATO should be directed at any one