

... the amount that is equal to the sum of the amount certified under paragraph (1).

Namely, it is the amount that has been used from any source to service the debt that Iraq owed under the Saddam Hussein regime.

Madam President, we take the position there will be no such payment. In any event, we don't see any harm in finding out if there is such a payment and dealing with that subject accordingly. Therefore, I am prepared to state to the Senator from Nevada we have no objection to the amendment of the Senator under the circumstances right now, and I will rely upon the statement of the distinguished Senator from West Virginia to determine whether there is objection from his side of the aisle. It is not an amendment I really seek to have enacted. In all probability, it may be substantially changed in conference if it does survive. But it is not something that offends the process we are involved in now. We don't know of any payments that would be made by any country on behalf of the former regime of Saddam Hussein to deal with the debt that existed under that regime.

Therefore, I will not oppose the amendment. I seek the advice of the Senator from West Virginia as to what they intend to do concerning this amendment. Does the Senator wish some additional time to consider this matter? Would he like to take the recess now and come back and deal with this after our weekly luncheon?

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, it is my information that this side has not yet adequately followed this amendment and has not seen it until recently to the extent that we are prepared to accept it. It appears to be a good amendment, but we may or may not want to accept it. Will the Senator allow us a little time for further study?

Mr. STEVENS. Yes. Madam President, I thank the Senator. I think the Senator will remember, as we wound up the session just prior to the recess, there were a series of amendments that were under consideration. Senator ENSIGN's was one of those. I think Members of our side checked with staff on the Senator's side, but we are probably not dealing with the right people. We had to pull the Ensign amendment at the last minute because we didn't have the clearance we thought we had.

I suggest we just stand in recess now and address this matter when we come back after the scheduled recess.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

#### RECESS

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we stand in recess, according to the previous order, until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:26 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. DOLE).

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, the Senator from Florida spoke just before the break to both managers of the bill. He wishes to speak for 4 minutes on an unrelated subject. I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Florida.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHINESE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, there is at this moment in orbit the first Chinese astronaut. Their successful launch of a piloted spacecraft marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of human exploration of space. Just the third nation to accomplish such a feat, I am happy on behalf of the Senate to welcome China into an elite group of nations that can independently send humans to explore the heavens.

The United States and Russia established manned space programs decades ago and are pleased to have a new ally—we hope a new ally—in the quest to explore space.

China's program will provide additional resources, I hope fresh ideas, and renewed enthusiasm for space exploration. My hope is that China will become a partner in our ongoing international efforts, such as the International Space Station, to make technological advances and to help solve mysteries of outer space.

As China undertook its first such mission, my thoughts were with the first taikonaut who is the sole space flyer on Shenzhou 5. Americans know all too well the potential risk of space flight, and we commend this astronaut's courage.

Americans also know that the benefits of space exploration outweigh the risks. We expect that the Chinese will reap rewards that space missions offer—to learn and to explore, to advance technology, and to uplift the human spirit.

Now that China has opened a new chapter in human space flight history, it is fitting that America refocus our own goals on exploration. Now is the time to renew our commitment to space exploration with a vision that will capture the imagination and the support of the people on planet Earth.

Congratulations to the Chinese. We look forward to a successful return, as he reenters, starting about 5 o'clock, as that reentry falls through space for about 30 minutes, and then as he starts encountering the upper atmosphere about 30 minutes from landing, which is a very perilous part of the journey, as we have very painfully learned as American citizens in the experience we had last February.

I am very confident our future missions at NASA will be quite successful.

I again commend Admiral Gehman and his commission for the excellent report of the Gehman Commission. I commend NASA and I encourage NASA to adopt all of the recommendations of the Gehman Commission. We again welcome the Chinese into this select fraternity of space-faring nations from planet Earth.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SECURITY AND RECONSTRUCTION, 2004—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 1839

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, the pending business is the Ensign amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. STEVENS. I now believe that has been cleared and I urge adoption of that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1839.

The amendment (No. 1839) was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Senator BYRD has cleared the amendment to which we already agreed. He is ready to offer other amendments, as others are. We certainly want to cooperate and have the Republicans offer a number of amendments. We have more to offer than they do, but they have an opportunity to offer theirs. At this time, I suggest the Senator from New Mexico be recognized. If, in fact, Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina shows up, the Senator from New Mexico will be happy to yield to him. He is only going to speak for 10 minutes anyway.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, if the Senator will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. My understanding was it was time for us to start moving some of the amendments on our side.

Mr. REID. We understand.

Mr. STEVENS. Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina, Senator WARNER, and Senator DOMENICI are coming. So I hope to proceed then. I have no objection to the Senator from New Mexico