

deemed expired and the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period for morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the second 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided that following morning business, the Senate begin consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3108, the pension reform bill, as provided under the previous order.

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

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#### PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow morning, following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of the conference report to accompany the pension reform bill. Under the unanimous consent agreement, there will be up to 4 hours for debate equally divided. Following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate will vote on the conference report. In addition to the pension reform conference report, the Senate may resume consideration of the FSC/ETI or JOBS bill.

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#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators STABENOW and DOLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first, I very much appreciate the Senate coming in when it is. We have a very important meeting at 9 o'clock with Secretary Rumsfeld. I appreciate that. I say that on behalf of the entire Senate.

Senator STABENOW wishes to speak for 20 minutes tonight, just so everyone understands. I do not know how long the Senator from North Carolina is going to speak.

Mrs. DOLE. About 8 minutes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, does the Senator from Michigan mind if the Senator from North Carolina goes ahead of her?

Ms. STABENOW. No.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

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#### STAYING THE COURSE IN IRAQ

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, a few years may have passed since I had the pleasure of serving President Ronald Reagan, but I can still remember the liberal naysayers attacking him for his fixed resolve in fighting the cold war. They questioned President Reagan's reasoning, they questioned his strategy, and they questioned America's chances of coming away victorious in a

battle to free the Soviet Union and other countries from the grasp of communism. President Reagan rejected communism, he rejected the Iron Curtain, and he refused to concede that freedom could not prevail.

While the Soviet Union was extending its influence and doctrine throughout the world, President Reagan had a different idea for the course of history. He knew that the enemy must be defeated, not tolerated. So in the face of severe criticism, Ronald Reagan did just that. Of course, we now know Reagan was right in his actions to eradicate communism. Millions were freed, and a global threat no longer exists.

Does this kind of skepticism have a familiar ring? It should. It is frighteningly similar to the opposition our current President is facing. In fact, some of the faces are even the same. They were wrong then, and they are wrong now.

As did Reagan, President Bush determined that terrorism must not be tolerated. It must be defeated.

Since declaring a global war on terror, the United States has succeeded in two operations against countries that harbored known terrorists. We have captured a brutal dictator in Saddam Hussein, immobilized Osama bin Laden, destroyed al-Qaida's base, and Iraq now has a constitution built on democratic principles. We are also seeing positive signs from known sponsors of terrorists.

After years of successfully hiding from United Nations inspectors, Libya has now relinquished its nuclear weapons program. Libya, as well as other rogue terrorist regimes, knows this President means business. Does this sound like a record that deserves criticism and skepticism?

Since liberating Iraq, the coalition forces have made tremendous progress, but insurgents remain who do not wish to embrace freedom but instead choose violence and terror. Coalition forces are presently seeking cleric al-Sadr. He is an individual who has a lot in common with Saddam Hussein. Much like Saddam, he is inciting criminals and loyalists of the old regime to take up arms against peace and freedom. Much like Saddam, he is hiding somewhere while others fight his battle—this time in a mosque, not a hole. And much like Saddam, he and other rogue supporters will be brought to justice by our forces.

We are blessed with brilliant and hard-working men and women, under Paul Bremer's leadership, who have sacrificed their way of life in the United States to aid the Iraqi people in the transition to democracy. Our men and women in uniform have done and are doing a phenomenal job of bringing stability to nations previously under the reign of terror. Sadly, there are casualties still occurring abroad, and it is heartbreaking.

I have personally visited with our men and women in uniform, as well as their families, and have seen firsthand

their unwavering commitment. They underscored how strongly they felt about their mission and the need to see it through to completion. Just this week, President Bush was in my home State of North Carolina where he met privately with the family of 26-year-old Army Specialist Christopher Hill. Christopher was killed in Iraq when his vehicle fell victim to a roadside bomb and exploded.

During the tear-filled meeting, an emotional President Bush spent time with Christopher's young widow, Cheryl Hill, and her 14-month-old daughter. Cheryl Hill was unyielding in her support of President Bush as our Commander in Chief. Amidst her prayers for her family, Cheryl told the President she not only supports him 100 percent, she prays for him as well.

I conclude with a story that pulled at my heartstrings this week. A soldier in Iraq was gravely injured when his vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade while on patrol. His driver and gunner were killed. He suffered extensive burns on his legs, back, and face and permanent nerve damage to his left leg.

After undergoing rehabilitation and several skin grafts in Germany, he told his commander to send him back to Iraq or he would not reenlist. He went through tests to ensure he was still mission capable and was ultimately sent back to Iraq to resume his post. When this seriously injured soldier was asked why he returned to Iraq after that kind of ordeal, he simply responded, "The job is not done."

Simple words, but how powerful and how poignant. Our job is not done, but I know we have men and women capable of completing it. May God bless each and every one of them and may God continue to bless those who yearn for freedom around the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a very important topic this evening. But I first want to commend and concur with the Senator from North Carolina in terms of our support for our troops. I think this is such a critical time. It is such a challenging, dangerous time for our men and women who are serving us now, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. All of us, 100 percent of this body, and I know the House, as well as the administration, join together in saluting, commending, and sending our prayers to them every single day.

I also wish to give my respect and honor and support to all of our men and women who are serving us.

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#### MEDICARE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a subject that I have certainly spoken about before on the Senate floor. This is an issue of great concern, an issue that is