

They cannot even do little things such as get the electricity back on. I have talked to Mr. Noriega in our administration. I have talked to Secretary Colin Powell. Both are very sympathetic to what is going on in Haiti and the needs of the Haitian Government. Secretary Powell has assured me the administration is trying to reprogram money and to get additional money for Haiti. Everyone agrees and understands the urgent need for this money.

I simply say to the administration, this money is desperately needed now. The new Haitian Government is struggling. They need to show the people of Haiti some immediate victories. If the people of Haiti are to have some confidence in this new Government, if they are to believe in this new Government, if they are to have confidence in the new Government, they have to see something tangible and they have to see it fairly quickly.

I hope our administration will be able to reprogram some money, will be able to set some money aside and get that money to Haiti so this new Government will be able to show the people of Haiti some good faith, be able to show them some victories, and the people of Haiti will be able to see there is, in fact, some hope.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. How much time do I have on this side in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 8 minutes remaining.

#### THE PRICE OF OBSTRUCTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I believe many in the press world and too many outside the beltway are observing the gridlock in the Senate and probably just dismissing it as "politics as usual."

The truth is, it is not politics as usual. It is politics at its worst. The result is Americans are getting the worst, the very worst from the Senate, when they deserve the best.

With gridlock jamming our Nation's highways, we get gridlock on the highway bill right here in the Senate. With our Nation's energy supply uncertain, the fate of the Energy bill in the Senate is equally uncertain. With a work-based welfare system doing wonders across America, we see no work allowed on welfare reform in the Senate. As backlogged as courtrooms are with lawsuits, so, too, is the Senate backlogged with sensible tort reform. As emergency room patients wait for a doctor's care, so, too, do emergency room doctors wait for medical lawsuit reform from the Senate.

Gridlock, uncertainty, inaction, backlog, and delay; that is all the Senate is serving up these days. Gridlock, uncertainty, inaction, backlog, and delay is all that is on the menu in the Senate these days.

There is a price for obstruction. It is real. It is painful and it is rising. Let me give a few examples.

For decades, now, congestion has been rising. According to the committee report on the highway bill, the extra time needed for a rush-hour commute has tripled over the past two decades. The resulting congestion costs every man, woman, and child in the United States \$520 a year. About a billion gallons of gasoline are wasted every 2 months on U.S. roads.

Yet this highway bill we have could create hundreds of thousands of jobs in the next few years. This highway bill is being prevented from being written, right here in the Senate. This highway bill, which would prevent almost half a million accidents, save almost 2,000 lives over the next two decades, this bill is stalled on an open road to nowhere.

Why? Because of Democratic obstruction. The House version and Senate version of the bill are blocked by Democrats from going to conference to resolve our differences. It is the way we legislate in the Congress.

With gas prices rising this year, with wide-scale electrical blackouts last year, and with Middle East tensions every year, the Energy bill is again stalled, going well into its third year of delay. But a bill that will, according to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, create 650,000 new jobs, that will boost the economy and secure our energy supplies, is blocked by Democratic filibusters.

Do we have to have another blackout before we are permitted to act? Do we have to have total shutdown of our freeways before the highway bill will be freed?

The price of obstruction is real. It is rising. And there appears to be little relief in sight in our roads, at our pumps, in our courtrooms, our emergency rooms, and our employment offices across America, all due to obstruction by Democrats.

I yield the floor and 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. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, how much time is left on the majority side in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the majority side there are 2 minutes 49 seconds remaining.

Mr. REID. Will the Chair notify me when that time has expired?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, is the time for the Democrats to begin now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thirty seconds remain on the majority side.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, when time comes for the Democrats, I ask

unanimous consent that Senator KOHL be recognized for 5 minutes, Senator FEINGOLD be recognized for 8 minutes, Senator KENNEDY for 5 minutes, Senator LEAHY for 5 minutes, and Senator CORZINE for 5 minutes. I further ask that the time remaining on this side, which I understand would be 17 minutes—is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. REID. I will yield myself such time as I may consume. If I get up to 15 minutes, I would ask the Chair to advise me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired on the majority side.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Democrats' time be allocated as I have indicated.

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

The Senator from Nevada.

#### HOLDING UP THE FSC BILL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I want everyone to listen. I know the best defense is good offense. That was learned long before I used those words. But that is what we have going on here today. We now have and have worked all week on a bill that is extremely important to this country. We refer to it as FSC. It is a tax bill that deals with corporate America.

As we speak, corporate America is being assessed penalties as a result of trade sanctions that have been placed on them by the World Trade Organization. We are trying to work our way out of that, and we are very close to being able to pass a bill. But the majority, as they do all the time, will not let us finish the bill.

Do you know what is holding up the FSC bill? Because the slow walk started last night. Four amendments. Four amendments: One by Senator FEINGOLD, which basically says we should buy American products. He wants 5 minutes. Senator CANTWELL wants to extend unemployment benefits, 30 minutes; Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG wants corporations that have foreign subsidiaries not to do business with terrorist countries. It does not sound too outlandish to me. Senator CORZINE wants to impose 301 actions, which basically is called super 301, which simply says the President has to enforce our trade laws.

Those are the four amendments, taking a total of an hour and 35 minutes, the majority will not let us go forward with on this bill. That is it, an hour and 35 minutes. Tough votes by some. I don't know why it would be hard to vote "buy America" or extend unemployment benefits or say foreign subsidiaries should not do business with terrorist organizations or countries, and enforce our trade laws. That is what they are.

But now we will hear the speeches: The Democrats are not allowing us to go forward with this most important—