

shows where the Republican priorities are on Capitol Hill and where the Republican priorities are in the White House, and it shows the clear choice that American voters are going to face on November 2.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The majority leader.

CLOTURE VOTE

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, in a very few minutes we come to a very important vote before this body, a vote that in many ways brings to a head the debate that has been on the floor the last week and a half to the last almost 2 weeks, a debate that focuses on the safety and security of the American people. This is a debate that does encompass a major reorganization to make our intelligence activities more efficient, more effective. The vote we will be taking in a few minutes is a product of us filing cloture at the end of last week to give focus to the debate.

I stand before you as majority leader to encourage our colleagues to vote for cloture. That means germane amendments will be considered. The amendments that have been introduced, that are pending, that are germane, will still be considered, can still be voted upon. In fact, germane amendments also that are brought to the floor can still be voted upon.

What it does mean is that over the next 30 hours we have a huge task and that task is to bring to closure and ultimately to a vote on this bill. It can be as long as 30 hours of debate but hopefully it will be much less than that. So I urge my colleagues to vote with the managers, with the leadership in the Senate for cloture on this very important bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. I join the majority leader in our enthusiastic support for the vote we will soon cast. I hope colleagues on both sides of the aisle will take this important step. This is an opportunity to make a statement about our determination, on a bipartisan basis, to move this legislation forward.

Senators have come forth with a lot of good ideas. I respect them. I appreciate the quality of the debate that we have had. It has been a very good debate. But now comes a time when I think we need to limit further amendments to those which are very relevant to the legislation, germane, and that is what this vote will do. Three commissions have made recommendations that are reflected in the legislative work that is before us today. Now is our opportunity to build upon that commission work, to build upon what the committee has done so diligently, and to work together to move this legislative vehicle along to accommodate the schedule we have here in the Senate, as well as the recognition that we still have to work with our House counter-

parts to resolve whatever outstanding differences there may be with them.

This is an important vote. I hope, as I say, that we can speak with one voice with regard to completing our work and moving on to the second phase of our 9/11 response, which is the legislative reorganization. I join with the leader and express the hope we can have a resounding vote on cloture this morning.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I will not vote to invoke cloture on the National Intelligence reform bill at this time.

This legislation reforming the intelligence agencies of our Government is a critical step in strengthening our national defense and our homeland security. If this cloture vote succeeds, it will prematurely cut off debate and prevent relevant amendments which could improve this legislation from being considered by the Senate. There are about 57 amendments currently pending before the Senate on this bill and perhaps half will be prevented from even being considered if cloture is invoked.

This is far-reaching and complex legislation which reorganizes the basic elements of our intelligence community. We cannot afford to get it wrong or we will end up making us less secure. We owe it to our constituents and the Nation, if necessary, to stay a few days longer in Washington and finish the job right. Frustrating the right of Senators to offer relevant amendments aimed at improving this legislation is unwise.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, finally, what to expect over the course of the day. The cloture vote will occur here in a couple of minutes. We strongly encourage votes for cloture. You heard the Democratic leader and myself, and you have heard the managers also make the strong case for cloture.

Immediately, amendments will be considered that are germane. The focus, hopefully, will be on amendments that have been introduced that are germane, so I encourage those proponents to come forward and talk to the managers immediately. The clock does start ticking as soon as this vote is completed. With that, we have a limited amount of time so we need aggressively to start addressing this, amendment by amendment, on the floor.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REFORM ACT OF 2004

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2845, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2845) to reform the intelligence community and intelligence and intel-

ligence-related activities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Lautenberg Amendment No. 3767, to specify that the National Intelligence Director shall serve for one or more terms of up to 5 years each.

Kyl Amendment No. 3801, to modify the privacy and civil liberties oversight.

Feinstein Amendment No. 3718, to improve the intelligence functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Stevens Amendment No. 3839, to strike section 201, relating to public disclosure of intelligence funding.

Ensign Amendment No. 3819, to require the Secretary of State to increase the number of consular officers, clarify the responsibilities and functions of consular officers, and require the Secretary of Homeland Security to increase the number of border patrol agents and customs enforcement investigators.

Reid (for Schumer) Amendment No. 3887, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to cover individuals, other than United States persons, who engage in international terrorism without affiliation with an international terrorist group.

Reid (for Schumer) Amendment No. 3888, to establish the United States Homeland Security Signal Corps to ensure proper communications between law enforcement agencies.

Reid (for Schumer) Amendment No. 3889, to establish a National Commission on the United States-Saudi Arabia Relationship.

Reid (for Schumer) Amendment No. 3890, to improve the security of hazardous materials transported by truck.

Reid (for Schumer) Amendment No. 3891, to improve rail security.

Reid (for Schumer) Amendment No. 3892, to strengthen border security.

Reid (for Schumer) Amendment No. 3893, to require inspection of cargo at ports in the United States.

Reid (for Schumer) Amendment No. 3894, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance cybersecurity.

Leahy/Grassley Amendment No. 3945, to require Congressional oversight of translators employed and contracted for by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Reed Amendment No. 3908, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to award grants to public transportation agencies to improve security.

Reid (for Corzine/Lautenberg) Amendment No. 3849, to protect human health and the environment from the release of hazardous substances by acts of terrorism.

Reid (for Lautenberg) Amendment No. 3782, to require that any Federal funds appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security for grants or other assistance be allocated based strictly on an assessment of risks and vulnerabilities.

Reid (for Lautenberg) Amendment No. 3905, to provide for maritime transportation security.

Reid (for Harkin) Amendment No. 3821, to modify the functions of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

Roberts Amendment No. 3739, to ensure the sharing of intelligence information in a manner that promotes all-sources analysis and to assign responsibility for competitive analysis.

Roberts Amendment No. 3750, to clarify the responsibilities of the Directorate of Intelligence of the National Counterterrorism Center for information-sharing and intelligence analysis.

Roberts Amendment No. 3747, to provide the National Intelligence Director with flexible administrative authority with respect to the National Intelligence Authority.

Roberts Amendment No. 3742, to clarify the continuing applicability of section 504 of