

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut, (Mr. DODD), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 153 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Akaka	Dorgan	Mikulski
Alexander	Durbin	Murkowski
Allard	Ensign	Murray
Baucus	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Graham	Obama
Bond	Grassley	Pryor
Boxer	Gregg	Reed
Brown	Hagel	Reid
Brownback	Harkin	Roberts
Bunning	Hatch	Rockefeller
Burr	Hutchison	Salazar
Byrd	Inhofe	Sanders
Cantwell	Inouye	Schumer
Cardin	Isakson	Sessions
Carper	Kerry	Shelby
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Chambliss	Kohl	Snowe
Clinton	Kyl	Specter
Coburn	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Lautenberg	Stevens
Coleman	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Thomas
Conrad	Lieberman	Thune
Corker	Lincoln	Voivovich
Cornyn	Lott	Warner
Craig	Lugar	Webb
Crapo	Martinez	Whitehouse
DeMint	McCaskill	Wyden
Dole	McConnell	
Domenici	Menendez	

NOT VOTING—9

Bennett	Feinstein	McCain
Biden	Johnson	Sununu
Dodd	Kennedy	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:36 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for not to exceed 10 minutes.

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

Ms. COLLINS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1329 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

IRAQ

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this week we in Congress are continuing to work toward a solution in Iraq that both supports our troops and changes our mission away from policing a civil war to more narrowly focusing on what should be our first and foremost goal—fighting terrorism, counterterrorism, to make sure al-Qaida cannot set up a camp and strike at us.

I rise today because we are beginning. We have said all along that this is going to be a long battle. Because we do not have 61 votes in the Senate, because the President has the veto power and we certainly do not have 68 votes to override a veto in the Senate, we are going to have to continue to bring up resolution and amendment after resolution and amendment until we persuade our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do what the American people want, to do what the American people asked for in November of 2006; that is, dramatically change the course in Iraq, the mission—greatly reduce the number of troops so we can keep some troops there who can fight terrorism, but that will be many fewer. Most will be out of harm's way.

We are getting good signs. First, 6 months ago President Bush said he wouldn't accept any benchmarks or any limitation. Now the word from the White House seems to be that they will accept some types of benchmarks or other types of language that would not just be a simple funding the troops without our other goal, changing the mission. But second and more significant, what I and my colleague from Washington—and I believe my colleague from Illinois will be speaking about—are seeing is our Republican colleagues begin to set their own timetables, their own deadlines. This weekend, House minority leader JOHN BOEHNER signaled that, as this debate wears on, the President will continue to lose support among the members of his own party.

By the time we get to September or October, members are going to want to know how well this is working and, if it isn't, what is plan B?

That sure seems similar to what we are trying to do, although we want to do it now.

Mr. BOEHNER's comments are echoed by a number of other Republicans who are hearing back in their States and districts that we must change the mission in Iraq. There are many comments.

TRENT LOTT:

I do think this fall we have to see some significant changes on the ground in Baghdad and other surrounding areas.

There are many more. One of those is JIM WALSH, from my home State of New York. Today, the New York Times reports that Mr. WALSH is replying to his constituents that he could soon be prepared to reassess our policy and begin withdrawing our troops.

Republican Congressman RAY LAHOOD is indicating he expects Republican members will grow increasingly "nervous" about the President's strategy.

Asked about the President's demand for a funding bill with no benchmarks, no conditions, and no reports, says Senator COLLINS, who just spoke here:

Many of us on both sides of the aisle don't see that as viable.

We are going to try to come up with a very strong resolution that both supports our troops and changes the mission. But we know we are making progress because our Republican colleagues themselves have been setting timetables, benchmarks, and other types of goals—limitations that are not terribly dissimilar from ours.

We will continue this battle, this struggle to require the President to change course in Iraq. We eagerly await our Republican colleagues joining us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from New York. I know my colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, will be here shortly as well to talk about a critical juncture at which we are now in terms of the war in Iraq.

Last week, both the House and Senate sent a very strongly worded bill to the President of the United States supporting our troops, saying we are there for them when they need us, but we also said it is time for a change of course in Iraq, that we can no longer leave our troops in the middle of a civil war. It is disappointing to all of us that the President chose to veto that bill and sent it back to us. But I think it is very important for us to set the context of where we are now as we look at what we are going to send back to the President.

These are the facts. There is increased violence in Baghdad as we speak. There is increased violence outside Baghdad today. In fact, over 100 American soldiers died last month alone, and at least 27 more American troops have been killed this month. In my home State of Washington, we got the sad news yesterday morning that six of our Fort Lewis soldiers were killed over the weekend. These are