

will object to any unanimous consent agreement to consider Mr. JOHNSON'S nomination.

I ask that the letter to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY,
August 1, 2007.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WYDEN: Thank you for taking time this morning to discuss the Department of Homeland Security's plans for the National Emergency Technology Guard (NET Guard) program. Following my June 29, 2007 letter to you that outlined our program approach, and as a prelude to our discussion, members of the Department's NET Guard team briefed your staff on our proposed plan. The positive feedback from your staff, coupled with your positive feedback this morning and the positive feedback that we have received from State, local, and private sector stakeholders, gives us confidence that we are taking the right approach to implementing this important disaster response program.

Accordingly, the Department is moving forward with plans to implement 12-month NET Guard pilots beginning in September 2007. The recommendation to establish pilots in September is consistent with the NET Guard Scoping Initiative Report, which I will provide to you upon its completion this month. To fund our efforts in fiscal year 2007 and 2008, we will continue to work with Congressional appropriators. I will also submit a request to the White House Office of Management and Budget to fund the NET Guard program in fiscal year 2009. On these and other program matters, the Department's Office of Legislative Affairs will keep your staff apprised of our progress.

I appreciate your interest and support of the Department's disaster response mission and look forward to working with you on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL CHERTOFF. ●

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2892. A bill to promote the prosecution and enforcement of frauds against the United States by suspending the statute of limitations during times when Congress has authorized the use of military force; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2893. A bill to designate the Ludlow Massacre National Historic Landmark in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2770

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to strengthen the food safety inspection

system by imposing stricter penalties for the slaughter of nonambulatory livestock.

S. 2874

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38, United States Code, to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 518

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. AL-EXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 518, a resolution designating the third week of April 2008 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2892. A bill to promote the prosecution and enforcement of frauds against the United States by suspending the statute of limitations during times when Congress has authorized the use of military force; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this country recently marked the 5-year anniversary of the war in Iraq—a war that the Bush administration refuses to end. The losses in this war have been staggering. More than 4,000 American soldiers have been killed and nearly 30,000 wounded. Hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars has been spent to fight this war, money which could have been—and should have been—used to help American needs here at home. Estimates for the cost of the President's adventure in Iraq are now into the trillions.

Through it all, the Bush administration has chosen essentially to ignore one of its primary obligations during wartime—to protect American taxpayers from losses due to fraud, waste, and abuse of military contracts. Sadly, these problems are all too common in times of war, and have been particularly pervasive in Iraq.

Over the past year, I have chaired hearings in the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees focused on the billions that have been lost to contracting fraud, waste, and abuse during this war. The testimony at those hearings has exposed the Bush administration's failure to take aggressive action

to enforce and punish wartime fraud. It has also shown how difficult it can be for investigators to uncover and prosecute fraud amidst the chaotic environment of war.

These problems have been exacerbated time and time again by the Bush administration, as tens of billions of dollars in "no-bid" and "cost-plus" contracts have been awarded with little, if any, oversight or accountability. Billions in cash—physical, paper money—have been flown to Iraq and handed out in paper bags, often without records of who received what, and when. Billion dollar contracts for training services cannot be audited because the records are incomplete, lost, or in disarray. The Government has been billed for defective products, like faulty ammunition, unsafe bulletproof vests, and even unsanitary drinking water for the troops.

Too often we do not learn about serious fraud until years after the fact. What we do know is that tens of billions of dollars are unaccounted for, and potentially lost to fraud, and little has been done to hold anyone accountable and recover the lost money.

This problem is not entirely new. Our nation has faced challenges in past wars. During World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke out against "war millionaires" who made excessive profits exploiting the calamity of war. President Harry Truman, when he served in the Senate, held historic public hearings to expose gross fraud and waste by military contractors during the war.

Unlike the current President, however, Presidents Roosevelt and Truman took action to ensure that wartime fraud could be successfully investigated and prosecuted despite the difficulties presented by an ongoing war.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed the Wartime Suspension of Limitations Act, which made it possible for criminal fraud offenses against the United States to be prosecuted after the war was over. President Truman signed a bill making that law permanent in 1948.

Everyone understood then that it was unrealistic to believe that all contracting fraud could be tracked down immediately in the midst of a war. The law provided for the suspension of the statute of limitations until the war was over. Congress supported this law overwhelmingly, as they had with a similar provision during World War I. President Roosevelt wrote: "The crisis of war should not be used as a means of avoiding just penalties for wrongdoing."

While the provision for post-war enforcement against fraud is still the law today, the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are exempt from its requirements. This Roosevelt-era law only applies "when the United States is at war." The military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan were undertaken without Congressional declarations of war. In recent decades, Congress has