

are confident we will be able to restore the circulatory system, if you will, and regain health for the economy—the body, if you will—and get the problem fixed for the American people.

I said yesterday that we are going to fix this problem this week. The Senate will speak tonight. We will send to the House a package that, if passed, will address the issue.

We will have demonstrated to the American people that we can deal with the crisis in the most difficult of times—right before an election, when the tendency to be the most partisan is the greatest. But we are in the process of setting that aside, rising to the challenge—both Democrats and Republicans—and doing what is right for the American people.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order the leadership time is reserved.

CORRECTION TO APPOINTMENT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that action on the appointment of Rainier Spencer made yesterday be corrected to reflect that is an appointment made on behalf of the majority leader and that correction be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNITED STATES-INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION APPROVAL AND NONPROLIFERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 7081, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7081) to approve the United States-India Agreement for Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am standing in today, my colleagues should be aware, for Senator BIDEN, who is the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. As most of the world is aware, he is otherwise occupied.

As the ranking Democrat next to him, I have been asked to assume the responsibility of bringing this matter before the Senate. Senator BIDEN has spent a great deal of time on this issue, along with his friend and colleague, the former chairman, Senator LUGAR, as have other Members as well.

Today we will talk about this issue, the importance of it, the action taken

by the House of Representatives under the leadership of HOWARD BERMAN, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of that body.

I have a letter from the Secretary of State, as well as other supporting information, that leads us to the conclusion that this bill ought to be passed, and passed, I hope, overwhelmingly by this body because of the message it would send not only to the people and the Government of India but others as well about the direction we intend to take in the 21st century about this matter.

I will share some opening comments, and I will turn to my colleague, Senator LUGAR, for any comments he has, and then Senator DORGAN and Senator BINGAMAN—at least two people I know who have amendments they wish to have offered. I know they have comments and thoughts they have to share on this subject matter as well.

In addition to Senator LUGAR and Senator BIDEN on the committee, there are other Members as well who expressed a strong interest in the subject matter—not necessarily an agreement with this proposal but nonetheless should be recognized for their diligence in paying attention to the issue. Senator FEINGOLD of Wisconsin and Senator BARBARA BOXER of California have demonstrated a real interest and concern about this issue.

I want to speak for a few minutes about Representative Henry Hyde. I was elected with him in 1974 to the House of Representatives. He is no longer with us, but nonetheless he made a remarkable contribution as a Republican Member of the House of Representatives, not the least of which was this one, on the Hyde amendment, which will be discussed, I presume, at some length today as we talk about this bill, H.R. 7081, the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Agreement.

I rise to urge passage of this bill, approving the United States-India peaceful nuclear cooperation agreement. On this past Saturday, the House of Representatives passed this bill by a margin of 298 to 116, a resounding vote in support for this agreement.

This agreement with India is as important as it is historic. This bill enables the United States and India to chart a new course in relations between our two great democracies.

There are compelling geopolitical reasons to move forward with this relationship. India has become a major actor in the world.

Why don't we put up this map. One of the things I thought I would do is put up a map. I know everyone knows exactly where these countries are located, but I think sometimes it can be helpful to remind people of the tremendous importance of India's location in Asia, sharing borders with many countries—certainly China and Pakistan and in close proximity with Afghanistan, a very fragile part of the world.

If you look at this map—I will leave it up for a good part of the day—you will appreciate, aside from the agreement itself, the strategic importance of this relation for the United States.

India has become a major actor in the world, and it increasingly sees itself in concert with other global powers, rather than in opposition to them.

Indian Prime Minister Singh, who visited Washington just last week, has devoted energy and political courage in forging this agreement, and in seeking approval for it in India. Put simply, he has placed himself and his political party on the line.

In India, the political symbolism of the agreement is extremely important. It addresses the most divisive and longstanding issue between our two countries dating back to 1974. Most important, the agreement addresses India as an equal—a point that looms large in India, where there are strong memories of a colonial past and of tensions with the United States during the Cold War.

Some of the debate in India focused on whether the agreement with the United States would hamper India's nuclear weapons program. But much of the give-and-take was really about a more basic question—whether it was really time for India to work cooperatively with Western countries. Reaching an accord on nuclear status has been wrenching for India, despite the favorable terms that some say India obtained.

This agreement is indicative of a new era in Indian foreign policy—an era in which India will see all the world's powers as potential partners in efforts to address its own needs and the needs of others. I believe that this new era will bring increased stability and progress to South Asia. I see the bill before us as approving far more than just a nuclear agreement. Among other things, it will set the stage for a stronger U.S.-India relationship, which will be of critical importance to our country in the 21st century.

The Committee on Foreign Relations held an in-depth hearing on the U.S.-India agreement last month. The committee, along with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, worked closely with the administration to address technical concerns expressed about the agreement. This extraordinary consultation resulted in a bill that will improve U.S. implementation of the accord and assure that nuclear non-proliferation remains at the core of U.S. foreign policy. Our committee approved a bill identical to the House-passed bill by a vote of 19-to-2. I commend chairman HOWARD BERMAN in the House and Senator LUGAR for his leadership as well.

This agreement is not a partisan issue. President Clinton launched the initiative, and President Bush pushed it to fruition. It had strong support on both sides of the aisle in 2006, when we voted on the Henry J. Hyde Act, establishing the underlying principles and requirements of this accord. Indeed, 85