

bringing the bill before the Senate without the ability of any Member of the Senate to object at that time to its consideration?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. STEVENS. As I understand it, the Senator is saying he would like to have the Senate agree that the two leaders can bring a bill before the Senate for consideration that has not yet been passed by the House, and no Member would be able to object to consideration at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I respond quickly to the Senator from Alaska? This is not a House bill; this is a Senate bill I am asking to have considered on the floor of the Senate as we regularly do with legislation in the Senate.

Mr. STEVENS. I apologize, Mr. President. From the prior conversation, I understood the House had brought its bill out of committee. I understood we were going to await that bill.

In any event, I want to say it again, as one who has voted for the bill, I am in the position of representing the leader.

Mr. President, I sought to become leader of the Senate once. I lost by two votes. I understand what it means not to be leader, but I also understand what it means to be leader. The leader has asked me to object on his behalf, and I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I just say again, and I want to clarify for the benefit of the Senator from Alaska, this is a Senate bill. It was passed through the Commerce Committee by a vote of 20-0. Yesterday, the House, by a vote of 42-0, passed through their committee similar legislation, although not the same legislation. They announced they would be passing their legislation next Tuesday.

What I am seeking is for us to be able to pass the Senate bill and go to conference, as is normal.

I should not do this, but I want to make another commitment to the Senator from Alaska because of the time constraints, and that is, if there are 50 relevant amendments filed and it looks as if the bill is going to be filibustered to death and we are not going to be able to pass it, then I will ask that the legislation be withdrawn at that time because I understand the time constraints under which the chairman of the Appropriations Committee is operating.

All I am asking is it be brought up with relevant amendments, as it will be passed by the House next Tuesday, and conferees will be appointed, as is normal, and we will go to conference and report out legislation hopefully that can be passed before we go out of session.

I say again to the Senator from Alaska, one, we passed it 2 weeks ago; two,

the House has acted in their committee, and they will be passing the bill next Tuesday. Right now we have no assurance of any kind that we can in any way take up this bill at any time. So when the Senator from Alaska objects on behalf of the leadership to consideration at any time that would be in keeping with the majority leader's schedule, then it is clear the effect is to kill the legislation, and we are talking about, as the Secretary of Transportation says, "Most important, however, is expeditious action on comprehensive legislation that will strengthen NHTSA's ability to address life-threatening motor vehicle safety defects."

I ask the chairman of the Appropriations Committee if he will do the following: If we can just go into a quorum call for 10 minutes and see if the leadership will allow this unanimous consent request to move forward. I am not interested in embarrassing the leadership. In fact, I am interested in not embarrassing the leadership because if there is no objection on the other side of the aisle and there is an objection on this side of the aisle to taking up the legislation at any time, that is really not good. That is not a good thing to happen. I speak as a Member on this side of the aisle. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed in morning business to speak about Yugoslavia for up to 10 minutes. If that causes problems for anyone, I will withhold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, to assure everyone, if the conference report comes over, I will immediately cease and desist so we can proceed with the regular business of the Senate.

REVOLUTION IN SERBIA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, we have had many debates on the floor of the Senate, genuinely heartfelt debates about the role of the United States of America in the world and the use of American force in the world.

We have had a split in this body between the parties, and within the parties, about whether or not it is appropriate for the United States to take a leadership role in Europe, including, on occasion, the use of force to promote our national interest and that of our allies.

There are several political cancers that exist in various parts of the world. And the one remaining cancer on the continent of Europe—the primary one—is Slobodan Milosevic.

I suggest that we all take a lesson from what is going on now in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia—in Serbia. Many of us, Democrat and Republican, have argued—myself; Senator MCCAIN; Senator LIEBERMAN; Senator Dole, when he was here—that the United States had an obligation, in its own self-interest and in the interest of our allies, and in the interest of humanity, to intervene, to stop the genocide and the ethnic cleansing that was being perpetrated by Slobodan Milosevic's vile nationalism.

I have been arguing for some time now that, absent our involvement in that region of the world, there would be chaos in, if not the heart, then the belly of Europe, and that if we acted with dispatch—swiftly and with resolve, and a willingness not to back away—Slobodan Milosevic, as with most thugs, would be stopped and would be eliminated.

Some have said on this floor, and some will say in the various Presidential and Senatorial and House campaigns that are going on, that we did not have an exit strategy when we committed American forces in Kosovo or American forces in Bosnia. Some will say that we have not succeeded because all is not tranquil, and if we were to withdraw American forces, things would revert to the chaos that existed before, and that this serves as proof that what we had done had not worked. The press and others declared early on in the bombing campaign in Kosovo—3 days into the 70-some day campaign—that it was a failure.

I am told, time and again, by some of my colleagues on the floor and I have read some pundits who state that, in fact, the American people are not patient, that they want instant results.

I say this. The end of Slobodan Milosevic is evidence of a number of things. One, our involvement was not only positive and good and successful, it was absolutely necessary. Without the leadership of the United States of America, I respectfully suggest our European allies would not have been as aggressive, they would not have been as united, and they would not have been as resolved.

Second, I hope we take a lesson from this as well to demonstrate that the American people have a great deal more patience and wisdom than we give them credit for. I have not heard, nor have I heard anyone else tell me that, while they have been home in the last 4 years, they have been told, as they walked from the grocery store, or to the drugstore, or home, that it is urgent we withdraw American forces from the Balkans.

Quite frankly, the opposite has occurred. The American people intuitively knew this was a place where wars have started before, this was a place where if chaos reigned it could not be contained, this was a place where a man such as Slobodan Milosevic could do nothing but ultimately harm the interest of Europe

and the United States. They were resolved, and they are resolved, to keep American forces in that area to maintain the peace and security of the region, along with our allies.

I might add, parenthetically, that we make up only, roughly, 7,000 of the nearly 41,000 troops that are in Kosovo, and that, in fact, we are doing the Lord's work there. It is kind of interesting that, in the six or seven trips I have made to the region—the last one being a trip to Kosovo—after I came back I remember having discussions here on the floor, and I would hear about how down the morale was of the American forces and how circumspect they were about whether we should be involved.

That is not what I found, whether it was at Camp McGovern in Bosnia several years ago or at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo last year. What I found was that these young women and men knew exactly why they were there. They knew why they were there. They did not have to be told. And they felt good about it. They knew they were doing the Lord's work. They understood. They understood there was a purpose and meaning for being there. All they had to do was ride through the streets and they understood it. It is interesting that the retention rate and reenlistment rate is higher for those who have been in Kosovo or Bosnia than for any other segment of the military.

So I would argue that what is happening in Yugoslavia now is making a lie of some of the assertions that were taken for granted around this place by a majority of the people on the floor, as well as a majority of the press, as well as a majority of the people who are so-called pundits.

This is the point I want to make.

We should not now, at this moment, change policy. Slobodan Milosevic is a war criminal. We should not, as former Secretary Eagleburger—a man for whom I have great respect—said yesterday on television, accommodate his departure from Serbia by winking and nodding and essentially letting him off the hook on the War Crimes Tribunal. We should not do that.

The newly elected President of Serbia, Vojislav Kostunica, is a lot of things that are good. But his record shows that he is also a fierce nationalist.

We should lift sanctions, but only when Milosevic goes. But again, just a word of caution, we should not lift all sanctions until we are clear that the new leadership in Serbia, in Belgrade, will honor the Dayton accords and will not use force in Kosovo. This is no time to relent. None—none—of us should relent now.

We have been right so far. A steady course, firm hand, U.S. power, U.S. leadership, and U.S. resolve have brought us this far. Without it, none of what has happened would be, in fact, what the history books will write about 2, 5, 10, and 20 years from now. History will record that what we did

was the right thing to do from a moral standpoint, and, even more importantly, in a Machiavellian sense, right for the national interests of the United States, and essential for any prospect of long-term peace and security in Europe.

I said a week ago that Milosevic could not be sustained, no matter what he did from this point on. The tides of history have moved. We saw it some years ago in Bulgaria. We saw it in Romania. We saw it occur again in Croatia. We saw it again in Bosnia. And we now see it in Serbia. For the first time in modern European history, there is a prospect—a serious prospect—that the Balkans will be integrated into Europe as a whole.

I can think of no more significant foreign policy initiative that this Government has taken since the Berlin Wall came down that has been so clearly vindicated—so clearly vindicated. So now is not the time to take an easy road out. Lift sanctions partially, make it clear to the Serbian people that we love them—our fight was never with them; they are a noble people—but I think we should have a steady hand. We are prevailing. The West is prevailing. Yugoslavia, in particular—most people refer to it as Serbia—is about to come into the light of day. We must not now send the wrong signal and let people in Serbia conclude that there is not a price to pay for those who violate, in a massive way, the human rights of their fellow citizens and that we expect the new government to behave in a way consistent with international norms.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 3059

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, set a time and date for consideration of S. 3059, and that only relevant amendments to the bill be in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have been involved in other meetings this morning, and I have not heard the discussion. I have not had an opportunity to see the level of disagreement on this. Let me just say to Senator McCain—and we just talked about it—I don't have a personal problem with this. But give me a little time to make sure that all of our people know to what we are about to agree. Hopefully, within the next few minutes he can offer that again. I will object at this point, but if he will withhold, because I understand there may be more objections, I will check that out.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I withdraw my unanimous consent request. I also assure the majority leader that if it appears as if there is going to be an avalanche of relevant amendments to

which we cannot get time agreements, then I am not interested in tying up the entire Senate on that legislation. But I do believe that it is important that we take it up, obviously. I am grateful the other side doesn't object to the unanimous consent agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, when the conference report arrives, I will terminate my comments.

THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN

Mr. FRIST. Amidst all of the proposals and discussions and objections and debate that has gone on here on the floor, I rise to talk about a bill that has been very positive, which demonstrates the best of what this body is all about—a pulling together and working together across the aisle in a bipartisan way, all with the goal of making others' lives more fulfilling, both in the current generation and in future generations. This week, the U.S. Congress has sent to the President of the United States for his signing a comprehensive bill that very much forms the backbone of efforts to improve the safety and health of America's children.

This bill that has been sent to the President focuses on our children's health, the Children's Health Act of 2000. It was more than a year ago that Senator Jim JEFFORDS and I reached out across the Capitol to Chairman BILEY and Representative BILIRAKIS to work together in a coordinated way on a whole variety of issues and bills that are critical to children's health and safety. These included such issues as maternal and infant health, day-care safety, pediatric research, pediatric health promotion, and efforts to fight drug abuse and provide mental health services for young people today. I am delighted that both the House and the Senate have passed this bill, that it has been sent to the President, and that we were successful in achieving our goal.

The bill addresses a range of issues. Just to give some flavor of this bill and what it can achieve, what it will achieve, what it does achieve in its language, let me comment on a few.

Day-care safety. Currently, there are more than 13 million children 6 years of age and less who are enrolled in day-care centers. Almost a quarter of a million are in Tennessee. One provision in this bill, the Day-Care Safety Act, recognizes the need to make these settings safer, improving the health and public welfare of children in day care. Parents should simply not be afraid to leave their children in the morning when they drop them off in these day-care settings, fearing that a licensed