work on a number of other important issues. Senator MCCONNELL helped in ensuring that the Senate passed H.R. 2330, the Burma sanctions bill. That bill has now been cleared for the President's signature.

The Senate also passed S. 764, Senator CAMPBELL's bill to extend the authority for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

The Senate was also able to act on a number of Energy Committee bills, including S. 470, which extended the authority for the construction of a memorial for Martin Luther King, Jr.

I look forward to a productive couple of weeks before our recess as we address the appropriations bills, energy bills, and other legislative and executive items that can be cleared.

SPAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to move to another subject, one that is brought to my attention on a daily basis. In fact, every time I turn on my computer, it is there, staring me in the face. It is this whole issue of spam.

One of my sons had not answered his e-mails; he had been away, in Bartlett, back in Tennessee. He came and turned his computer on and there were 300 e-mails waiting for him. He said only 40 of the 300 e-mails—this was just last night—40 of the 300 e-mails were e-mails actually sent to him by somebody he knew in the sort of discussion that we know e-mail is all about; that is, to stay in touch with family and friends and communicate effectively. The other approximately 250 or 260 e-mails were unsolicited e-mails that had been sent to him.

It reminded me of a letter I received from a constituent, a 73-year-old grandmother from Vonore, TN. That letter reads as follows:

DEAR SENATOR FRIST: My niece gave me a computer in 2001. It has been a delight to e-mail. At age 73, there is a tendency to feel the world has moved ahead of you, and no one wants to be left behind. Now I wonder if left behind would not be better.

I started getting e-mail titles that horrified me. I have been unable to find out where it comes from or how to stop it. I communicated with my niece, who is Executive Assistant to the only female Judge in Alabama, and she tells me they also have had the experience. She sent me an article from the Mobile paper that would indicate many people are becoming outraged at the practice. I urge you to be one of them.

Mary's letter continues. There are two more paragraphs. Third paragraph:

I do understand the need for free speech, but this goes way beyond the bounds of decency. I am appalled to think our young people are subjected to such an onslaught of trash. There is no way they can be protected at this point if a grandmother, whose e-mail address clearly identifies her as such, is not.

If a child buys alcohol, tobacco, Playboy or Hustler at the local market, it is a crime. Yet in their own home they are not being protected. Could you craft a law that would prosecute anyone who sent unsolicited indecent or vulgar mail into our homes?—Sincerely, Mary K. Barnwell.

This letter is just one of many that I could have read which constituents have sent me. I mentioned my own son's experience, experience we all have had, the inconvenience, and the offensive nature with which these e-mails are sent and received.

The answer to Mary's question clearly is, yes; we can craft a law that will punish individuals who flood our homes with indecent, unsolicited, and endless streams of spam. International Magazine reports in its most current issue that the millions of spam e-mails that are clogging up our computers are sent out by only a handful of individuals. These spammers call e-mail addresses from chat rooms, from Web pages, from news groups, from message boards, and from e-mail service directories to set up their spamming operations. They even sent out e-mails to random number and letter combinations to look for hits. When they get a hit, it is a matter of minutes before the spam starts pouring in.

Spammers, as we all know, often deliberately target children. They capture e-mail addresses from sites that are typically used by kids, and then they inundate these young victims with offers of free toys, of video games, and contests. But when the child clicks to enter, they are again rerouted to a 900-number modem connection. A dialer is automatically loaded onto the child's system, and unbeknownst to the child they are racking up $3.99 per minute until they sign off. You can imagine the parents' shock and anger when that phone bill arrives.

In other instances, the child might click on the free toy offer. They might get rerouted through a pornography site. When they try to exit, pornography screens pop up to block their retreat.

Some spammers send e-mail in the old-fashioned way. The perpetrator sends an enticing e-mail—an offer, for example, for action figures. The hook? The child has to enter a credit card to get the toy. Mom and dad's credit card information goes in and thousands of credit card dollars go out.

As we all know, as parents it is hard to keep close tabs on a child's Internet activity. Many kids have multiple e-mail addresses among various free Web sites. Multiple e-mail addresses means multiple routes for spam, not to mention the unsavory and dangerous Internet communication.

That is why in this body we need to address the problem and start helping parents filter out this irritating and indeed potentially financially ruinous junk. Indeed, in the Senate, we will take action to protect the millions of Americans who have used the Internet the positive way for which it was intended—to talk, to communicate, to stay in touch with loved ones, to shop and to talk to families and friends with good intent. We simply should not be hassled by fraudulent sales pitches. We simply should not have to put up with being pelted with pornographic material when we simply sign on to read e-mail. Aggressive spamming is a menace. It is threatening an otherwise miraculous and indeed revolutionary form of communication. We simply cannot and should not let a few nefarious individuals spoil it for us all.

I bring this issue up in part because my son mentioned last night what happened to him when he turned on his computer and there was the spam laid out in over 250 e-mails sent to him over a period of several weeks, and in part because we all see it each and every time we turn on our computer.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to address this problem, and indeed to help America's families and Internet users put a stop to this spam.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: Are we currently in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to first say to the distinguished majority leader that I was privileged to be here for part of the comments on the floor. As usual, today he brings to the floor of the Senate a tremendously difficult issue confronting the American people. What he spoke of in terms of spam and our kids is a tough one. We have to solve it. I believe his response to his own question about whether it can be solved is that it can be solved. It is going to be tough. I hope we can get some good Senators to put their shoulders to it and see what we can do about getting it stopped.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI pertaining to the introduction of S. 1432 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

WAR WITH IRAQ

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, Democrats—not all, but some, predominantly those running for President of the United States—have questioned United States intelligence and war with Iraq based on 16 words. Republicans have made a comprehensive case based on facts, recent history, and protecting the American people. Democrats', in my opinion, politically motivated case, questions intelligence and a war with Iraq in the following words found in the address by the President:

The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.

The case for going to war was not made by those words.

No. 1, it was made on the proposition of protecting the American people.

On a September morning, threats that had gathered for years, in secret and far away, led to murder in our country on a massive scale. As a result, we must look at our security in a new way, because our country is a battlefield in the first war of the 21st century. We learned a lesson: The dangers of our