

Certainly. As I mentioned, as my colleague was going through the nature of the mission and how it changed, we're now in a position where we're operating in a support role. We're not engaged in any of the activities that typically over the years in war powers analysis is considered to constitute hostilities within the meaning of the statute. We're not engaged in sustained fighting. There's been no exchange of fire with hostile forces. We don't have troops on the ground. We don't risk casualties to those troops. None of the factors, frankly, speaking more broadly, has risked the sort of escalation that Congress was concerned would impinge on its war-making power.

So within the precedents of a war powers analysis, all of which typically are very fact-dependent, we are confident that we're operating consistent with the resolution. That doesn't mean that we don't want the full, ongoing consultation with Congress or authorization as we move forward, but that doesn't go to our legal position under the statute itself, and we're confident of that.

I respect Mr. Bauer, but I respectfully disagree with him. I believe that what we are engaged in in Libya is a matter that should come under the War Powers Resolution. I believe that we should as a Congress consider it under the War Powers Resolution.

I think that is the right course of action. It will give the President clear authority, and it will also establish the clear authority of Congress in this particular situation.

Let me add quickly, I think the President was right in what he did initially. I believe the use of American military technology—which was primarily our initial investment—was certainly warranted. Working with NATO, we created an atmosphere where the NATO forces could not be in harm's way, would be safe in their early efforts to stop Muammar Qadhafi in his efforts to kill the civilians in his country.

I also believe the President was right from a foreign policy viewpoint by not doing this unilaterally but working with the Arab League, the European Union, and the United Nations.

The fact that we have for the first time in history NATO forces working in concert with the Arab League is, I think, a very positive thing, and I salute the President for doing it.

I think his goal and motives were good in this effort, and I would vote, if asked, to continue this effort under the War Powers Act affirmatively based on all the briefings I have received.

Having said that, I believe we should pursue the course that Senator CARDIN and I suggested in our resolution, that we should, in fact, deal with this matter under the War Powers Resolution. We should debate and take action on it here in the Senate.

I am hopeful that soon—perhaps before the end of the day—there will be some effort under way in a bipartisan fashion to do just that.

At the end of the day, we will be asked by future generations if we kept true to our oath under the Constitution, which requires us to face difficult debates and decisions, and there are none more difficult than this.

We are also going to be asked by the people we represent in terms of the cost in human life and the cost to American taxpayers whether we engaged in the debate and determined it was the appropriate thing to do.

I have, like so many Members of the Senate and Congress, had the sad duty to attend the funerals of those who have fallen in combat in service to our country. It is sad to face their families and realize they have paid the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation. I think that requires us, even in circumstances where the facts are debatable, to err on the side of exercising our constitutional authority.

I hope before the end of the day this bipartisan resolution will come to the floor—and certainly before the end of the week—and that we debate it and act on it before the end of this work period.

Again, let me make it clear, I think the President is right in what he is doing. But I think we have a responsibility that goes beyond Mr. Bauer's conclusion—a responsibility to decide that this offensive use of military force, even for a good purpose, a good humanitarian purpose, is one that requires the authorization of the American people through their Members of Congress.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

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

Morning business is closed.

THE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT EFFICIENCY AND STREAMLINING ACT OF 2011—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 75, S. 679. I send a cloture motion to the desk and ask the clerk to report.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 75, S. 679, the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011:

Harry Reid, Joseph I. Lieberman, Thomas R. Carper, Frank R. Lautenberg, Sherrod Brown, Barbara Boxer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Joe Manchin III, Debbie Stabenow, Jon Tester, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Kent Conrad, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am disappointed that we had to file cloture again. I would hope, though, that in the ensuing days, the Republicans on the other side will let us get on this bill.

This is a bill Senator MCCONNELL and I started working on when we were both whips many years ago. The purpose of the bill is to eliminate the need to have all of these nominations to these relatively minor posts confirmed by the Senate. And the work done by the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senators SCHUMER and ALEXANDER, has been exemplary.

We now will have—when this legislation passes, and I really think it will pass, even if we have to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed and on the bill itself—hopefully that will not be necessary, but if we do, that is what we will have to do. This bill would take away the necessity of our having to do some 200 nominations for some of these minor posts I talked about.

I hope we can get on this bill when we come back next week. It will be the right thing to do. There is so much to do. This would set the tone of this work period that has not been so good to this point.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 34, the nomination of Michael H. Simon, of Oregon, to be U.S. district judge for the District of Oregon; that there be 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on Calendar No. 34; that following this vote, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conferences; that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate consider Calendar No. 183, Leon E. Panetta to be the Secretary of Defense for our country; that there be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on Calendar No. 183; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, no further motions be in order to

the nominations, and any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session; further, that following this vote, the Senate resume consideration of the EDA bill and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on that bill; that if cloture is not invoked, the Senate proceed to vote to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 679, the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act; finally, that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived on both cloture motions.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 17 minutes.

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

CYBERSECURITY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a serious issue that touches on our national security, our economic well-being, the safety of our families, and our privacy; that is, America's cybersecurity.

I look forward to conducting an in-depth examination of the aspects of this issue that falls within the Senate Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction during the Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism's June 21, 2011, hearing, "Cybersecurity: Evaluating the Administration's Proposals." However, because of the importance of improving our cybersecurity, as demonstrated by the recent Gmail spear-fishing attacks and hacks at Sony, Epsilon, Lockheed Martin, and even the Senate itself, I rise to make some initial remarks today.

American technological innovation ushered in the Internet age, bringing with it Facebook, YouTube, and the rest of the World Wide Web. It set off an explosion of new commerce, freedom of expression, and economic opportunity even in the smallest details of our lives—allowing a car company, for instance, to unlock your car doors remotely if you have locked yourself out of your car.

However, this increased connectivity allows criminals, terrorists, and hostile nations to exploit cyberspace, to attack America, to invade our privacy, to loot our intellectual property, and to expose America's core critical infrastructure to cyber sabotage. Entire online communities are dedicated to stealing and selling American credit card numbers. Consider the disturbing

fact that the price of your credit card number stolen online actually goes up if the criminal also is selling your mother's maiden name. Some criminals have learned how to spy on Americans, hacking into our home computers and looking out through the video camera attached to the screen. Others run Web sites selling stolen entertainment without paying the American companies that created it. And millions of American computers—millions of American computers—have been compromised by malware slaved to botnets that can record your every keystroke and send it instantaneously across the world to a criminal's laptop.

I firmly believe that cyber crime has put our country on the losing end of the largest illicit transfer of wealth in world history. Whether by copying source code, by industrial espionage of military product designs, by identity theft, by online piracy, or by outright old-fashioned stealing from banks—just doing it the electronic way—cyber crime cripples American innovation, kills jobs here at home, and undermines our economic and national security.

Congress must act to protect Americans from these Internet dangers and to protect our civil liberties. Let me say at the outset that the government must not be allowed to snoop indiscriminately into our online activity, to read our e-mail, or to watch us online. There simply is no need for such an invasion of privacy, and we must move forward with that firmly in mind.

The majority leader has introduced a leadership bill that will be a vehicle for our work. The Commerce Committee, led by Chairman ROCKEFELLER and Ranking Member SNOWE, both of whom I had the privilege to serve with on the Intelligence Committee, and the Homeland Security Committee, led by Chairman LIEBERMAN and Ranking Member COLLINS, reported key bills last year. Chairman LEAHY and the Judiciary Committee have reported important legislation on data breach and other issues central to cybersecurity. The Armed Services, Energy, and other committees have studied the issue from the perspective of their particular jurisdictions and expertise, and under the leadership of Chairman FEINSTEIN, the Intelligence Committee Cybersecurity Task Force completed its classified report last July, authored by me, Senator MIKULSKI, and Senator SNOWE. So we have been ready in Congress.

The administration has now weighed in with its own proposal, recognizing that we need cybersecurity legislation to make our Nation safer and launching in earnest our legislative process.

We have hard work ahead to find the best possible solutions to this complex and grave challenge to our national and economic security. As we begin, I would like to flag five issues that I believe must be addressed as this legislation goes forward.

First, we need to build greater public awareness of cybersecurity threats going forward.

What is the problem? The problem is that information affecting the dot.gov and the dot.mil domains—the government domains—is largely classified. And in the dot.com, dot.net, and dot.org domains, threat information is often kept proprietary by the victim business so as not to worry shareholders, customers, and regulators, or give ammunition to competitors. The result is that Americans are left in the dark about the level of danger that is actually out there on the Internet.

The administration's proposal would require covered businesses to notify customers if their personal information is stolen, expand reporting of cybersecurity threats, and require some public assessments of cyber readiness.

I believe more can still be done on these fronts. I have had the pleasure of working with Senator KYL to introduce S. 931, the Cyber Security Public Awareness Act. I would like to urge interested colleagues to review it and consider including it as part of our larger cybersecurity legislation. That is first.

Second, the Senate needs to ensure that we give private industry the tools necessary for self-defense against cyber attacks.

Proper sharing among and within industries of cybersecurity threat information is vital. The administration took an important step by recommending, subject to various safeguards, enhanced sharing of cybersecurity threat information by the government with private industry. But we may also need to remove legal impediments that unnecessarily limit the sharing of threat information within industries, and we should be prepared to listen here to the private sector's needs as they set up those areas for safe communications about the cyber threats they share.

Third, our Nation does not have basic rules of the road for end users, ISPs, and software and hardware suppliers.

The administration proposal includes important provisions that would move us in the right direction. Assuming that ISPs—Verizon and Comcast and the companies that are actually providing the service—assuming that these companies qualify as critical infrastructure, which is an assumption we should clarify before getting too far down this path, the administration's proposal would require them to develop a standardized framework to address cybersecurity.

Sensible laws and regulations have made our highways safe, and we need similarly to make our information highways safe. Federal procurement can encourage effective cybersecurity standards with appropriate supply chain security so as to improve cybersecurity across the hardware and software industries. These improvements will benefit the government directly, but it will also improve the security of all products on which business and consumers rely.