

ideas, and experience to this difficult challenge.

I cannot let this occasion go by without briefly mentioning some of the many awards and accomplishments that General McCaffrey has received during his illustrious military career: two awards of the Distinguished Service Cross, two awards of the Silver Star, three awards of the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in Vietnam, leader of the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division whose left hook attack against the Iraqi army was the decisive ground battle in our gulf war efforts. In order to accept the President's call to duty in the drug war, General McCaffrey will retire from the Army; there is no greater indication of his love of country than this sacrifice to take on a new challenge.

The extent of the drug war is well known and seems to have worsened during the last few years, especially among our young people. General McCaffrey's recent responsibilities as commander of the Southern Command has plunged him into the counter-narcotics battle, experience which will serve him well in his new post. Along with his unquestioned moral authority and leadership skills, this experience makes Gen. Barry McCaffrey uniquely qualified for this position.

I urge the Congress to assist our new drug czar in this fight in policy determination, financial commitment, and moral leadership. Only by enlisting all of us as soldiers in this war will the generals in the fight, such as General McCaffrey, be able to win the war on drugs. I wish my friend the best in his new position and it has been a singular honor for me to participate with my friend, Senator NUNN, in introducing General McCaffrey to the Judiciary Committee.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in anticipation of the visit by a foreign dignitary, so that we can bring him to the floor, I now observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. LOTT. Mr. President, we will be a few minutes yet before the foreign dignitary will be able to visit with us in the Chamber, so I thought we would go ahead and proceed with the debate. So, I seek recognition to speak on the Whitewater committee extension.

WHITEWATER

Mr. LOTT. First, Mr. President, I want to make note of what is being done here. The distinguished chairman of the Banking Committee has asked for a very fair unanimous consent that the Senate bring up the resolution extending the Special Committee To Investigate Whitewater Development Corp., and that it would be presented in a most fair manner, 2 hours of debate, equally divided, with an amendment in order by the distinguished Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, and an hour of debate on that, and we would then proceed to vote.

That unanimous-consent request has been objected to. It seemed like a fair way to proceed to me. It is normal business. You bring up a resolution, you have a very fair procedure where the other side can offer an alternative and we can have a vote on that and then proceed to vote on the resolution as it is presented. That has been objected to now about four times. We are just trying to find a way to move this to a conclusion.

This Whitewater committee has a job to do. The American people understand that. They want the job to be done. But that job is not complete. It would have been nice if it could have been wrapped up a month ago, or today. But the work is not completed. It is not completed partially because there has been this slow process. They talk about a perception of politics; how about a perception of coverup?

I can understand how there are documents can be misplaced at one time and then turn up, like the billing records did in the private residence at the White House. That is one example. And then there are these documents that Mr. Gearan found. Then there are the documents which Mr. Ickes found. I think that came out just in the last week or so.

Every time it looks like all the documents that can be found have been found—and I am not on the committee; I am just observing it as a normal Member of the Senate would—and when the Senate seems like it is getting to the point where we could begin to move to some conclusions, another raft of papers just appears out of thin air.

I want to commend the chairman of the Banking Committee. He has been diligent. He has been very calm in the way he has handled this committee. He has been very fair. Yet he is, on the one hand, criticized because they have not had hearings every day and on the other criticized because of all that has been done and all the documentation that has been accumulated. I just think he is entitled to some credit for the very calm and methodical job that has been done.

Those who want to say, well, it is politics, those who are opposed to extending this hearing in the way that it should be extended, certainly you would think that they would have had the Washington Post or New York

Times and other media in their corner. But that is not so.

The New York Times, in fact, on the 28th of February, said that Senator D'AMATO has in a non-partisan way made a very strong point about the need to continue the Whitewater committee. I want to read an excerpt from the New York Times. The editorial supports an indefinite extension of the committee and the duty of the Senate to pursue this matter in a fair way.

The New York Times editorial reads thusly:

The Senate's duty cannot be canceled or truncated because of the campaign calendar. Any certain date for terminating the hearings would encourage even more delay in producing subpoenaed documents than the committee has endured since it started last July. The committee has been forced to await such events as the criminal trial next week of James McDougal, a Clinton business partner in the failed Whitewater land venture.

No arguments about politics on either side can outweigh the fact that the White House has yet to reveal the full facts about the land venture, the Clintons' relationship to Mr. McDougal's banking activities, Hillary Rodham Clinton's work as a lawyer on Whitewater matters and the mysterious movements of documents between the Rose Law Firm, various basements and closets and the Executive Mansion. The committee, politics notwithstanding, has earned an indefinite extension. A Democratic filibuster against it would be silly stonewalling.

The New York Times is not exactly a Republican National Committee publication. The New York Times is not the only newspaper which has expressed similar views. There have been similar articles in the Washington Post.

So, I am a little surprised at what I have heard here today: that we're dragging the investigation out; that Whitewater is only about empty allegations and politics. There are also these complaints that there is nothing really to Whitewater. There is no "there, there," so to speak.

I do not know all the details. But I do know this, that in connection with this matter, there have been numerous guilty pleas and indictments. David Hale pleaded guilty on March 22 to two felony violations. Charles Matthews pleaded guilty on June 23, 1994, to two misdemeanor violations. Eugene Fitzhugh pleaded guilty on June 24, 1994. Robert Palmer pleaded guilty on December 5, 1994. Webster Hubbell pleaded guilty on December 6, 1994. Christopher Wade pleaded guilty on March 21, 1995. Neal Ainley pleaded guilty on May 2. Stephen SMITH pleaded guilty on June 8. Larry Kuca pleaded guilty on July 13, 1995.

We have indictments on numerous felony counts of Mr. McDougal. Eleven felony indictments were handed down against Governor Tucker. You know, I do not think we can lightly dismiss all of these things.

I acknowledge that these are separate proceedings that are being carried forth by the independent counsel's office. But as a matter of fact, the Senate has an even higher responsibility.