

I ask unanimous consent that Senator ASHCROFT be added as a cosponsor of S. 495.

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

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on behalf of the Democratic leader and I, we just want to announce again that what we are about to do within the next 10 minutes or so is offer a unanimous-consent agreement on the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are still working to make sure we have a mutual understanding of exactly what is in it, and we want all Senators to be aware that we are preparing to do that.

I would be glad to yield at this point to the Senator.

Mr. DASCHLE. I appreciate the majority leader's yielding.

I heard him thank a number of people, and I want to express my gratitude as well to the majority leader and so many others who have brought us to this point. We have hot-lined this unanimous-consent request.

Let me just urge all of my Democratic colleagues to respond as favorably and as quickly as they possibly can. I have very closely examined once more this request, and I must say I think it is fair to all sides. It is not everything we would like, but it is not everything that the Republicans would like either. It is important for purposes of completing our work on time that we get this agreement today, this afternoon.

So I urge my Democratic colleagues to support the request and to allow us to enter into an agreement no later than 2:15 this afternoon. So again I thank the majority leader, all of those on our side of the aisle for their great work in bringing us to this point.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business time be extended for an additional 15 minutes.

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

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS THREAT REDUCTION ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am pleased to speak in support of this legislation that has been drafted by Senator KYL and joined in with cosponsorship from Senators HELMS, NICKLES, MACK, COVERDELL, SHELBY, HUTCHISON, and myself, as well as others. We introduced this legislation on March 21. This is important legislation. I know there are a lot of people who are trying to assess will this legislation favorably

or unfavorably affect the final vote on the Chemical Weapons Convention. I do not think you can really judge that. Senators that will vote on both sides of the issue on this bill and that bill will view it in different ways depending on their own personal perspective. The most important thing is this is a bill we should have passed. We should already have passed it irrespective of what might happen on the Chemical Weapons Convention.

As I have gotten into this issue and studied this bill, I am amazed that we do not already have laws on the books dealing with sanctions against any country that uses chemical and biological weapons against another country or its own nationals, that we do not allow a range of chemical and biological weapons within the United States. I cannot believe we have not already done it.

This is very good legislation. I hope action on this legislation will put one myth to rest once and for all: No one supports chemical weapons in the United States. Everyone is opposed to them. We all know they are terrible things. Whether they are used in a military situation or civilian situation like we have seen in recent instances in other parts of the world, they are a horrendous thing and they should be eliminated from the face of the Earth in any way we can do it.

As a matter of U.S. law, our chemical weapons stockpile will be destroyed by 2004. No matter what happens on the chemical weapons treaty, we already made a commitment and in fact are in the process of destroying our own stockpiles by 2004. Whether or not we pass this bill or whether or not we ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention, the weapons in the United States are being destroyed.

Next week, when we get this UC agreement worked out, the Senate will debate and vote on the Chemical Weapons Convention. I have a number of key concerns about the convention which have not yet been resolved, but to the credit of the proponents and the administration, they have been working with us, I believe, in good faith. We have had a number of minor and some major improvements. We are still working on that language at this very moment. But fundamental issues exist, some of which have not been resolved.

I do think that requiring search warrants for involuntary searches is essential. Protecting United States intelligence information is vital; ensuring United States chemical defensive technology and equipment, making sure it is not shared with Iran or other countries that could possibly under this convention get access to United States information or information from other parts of the world in terms of how chemical technology can be utilized for chemical weapons or also how that technology or equipment could be used in defense capability. We do not want that kind of information spread throughout the globe to those rogue

countries that in fact have already been using chemical weapons, have that capability and have indicated they either will be in the convention or may not.

But serious concerns remain. Whether the convention is verifiable enough, whether Russia is taking steps to perhaps violate the treaty and, most importantly, whether provisions in the convention actually increase the likelihood of chemical weapons proliferation, those are all very important questions and we will vote on those issues next week in one form or another through a motion to strike or on final passage. I know all Senators are weighing the information very seriously. To the credit of our committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, in the hearings they have been having, we have been hearing testimony from very distinguished Americans on both sides of the issue.

It is being analyzed and critiqued in articles and editorials. I believe the Senate now is focusing on this issue, and that is as it should be. This bill will help to do that.

Today, though, the Senate will have an opportunity to take real enforceable and effective action to address the threat of chemical weapons. The Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat Reduction Act includes comprehensive domestic and international steps to act against these horrible weapons.

Domestically, this bill provides for civil and criminal penalties for the acquisition, possession, transfer or use of chemical or biological weapons. Again, it is amazing we do not already have this on the books.

It designates the FBI as the lead domestic agency to address chemical weapons threats.

Our bill provides for a Federal death penalty in cases when the use of weapons results in the loss of life. Swift and certain punishment can help ensure that terrorists do not use chemical weapons against America, and ending bureaucratic struggles can help ensure any terrorists get caught quickly.

Internationally, this legislation directs the administration to add enforcement provisions to existing international bans on the use of chemical weapons. Use of chemical weapons has been banned since 1925 in the Geneva Protocol, but the world knows this ban has not been effective. In fact, in the 1980's, after clear evidence—clear evidence—of Iraq's use of chemical weapons against its own people, the international community did nothing—did nothing. It is time to add enforcement mechanisms to that Geneva Protocol.

S. 495 includes a number of provisions to stem chemical and biological weapons proliferation around the world. It requires mandatory sanctions on countries which use these weapons.

It mandates enhancements to our chemical and biological defenses.

It requires the administration to name names in an annual report to identify the people and the countries