that have already gone through lengthy premarket approval processes, where those devices can be expedited into the system because there is no difference and the question is on the label what the intended use is, not on what somebody tries to make the intended use to be. It would be impossible for anybody, any company, anybody to possibly speculate and list all the ways in which people might think up of using devices. The company produces it for a specific purpose, it provides an indicator for a specific purpose, and a contraindicator for how it is not to be used, and if there is in any way a technological change in that device, then FDA has full and complete authority to deny the substantial equivalency label.

Let's keep our eyes focused on what we are attempting to do here and not be confused by egregious examples that don't even fit the issue, that don't even go to the core of what we are debating. It makes for good theater. It makes for lousy legislation.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m., and when the Senate reconvenes, there be only the following time remaining, limited in the following fashion: 20 minutes under the control of Senator KENNEDY, 20 minutes under the control of Senator JEFFORDS, 10 minutes under the control of Senator HARKIN, and 10 minutes under the control of Senator FRIST.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I ask the manager of the bill, would the 10 minutes under my control occur prior to the vote on the Reed-Kennedy amendment or after the vote?

Mr. JEFFORDS. After the vote.

Mr. HARKIN. I appreciate that. I have no objection.

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

RECESS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate now stand in recess under the order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:53 p.m., recessed; whereupon, the Senate, at 2:15 p.m., reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. COATS).

Mr. JEFFORDS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized to speak for 2 minutes.

LANDMARK HEARINGS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today was a landmark day for the American people in hearings before two Senate committee on which I serve.

As chairman of the Special Committee on Aging and the request of my colleague, Senator SHELBY, I assembled several panels to raise the awareness of the second-leading cause of cancer death for men: prostate cancer.

In the Finance Committee, we opened up 3 days of unprecedented oversight hearings into systemic abuses of power by the Internal Revenue Service.

The telephones were ringing off the hook in my office as these hearings were underway. That's how much these issues struck a chord with the American people.

And suddenly, the hearings were canceled. Why? Was it a national emergency? The death of a colleague? An international crisis? Hardly.

Instead, the Democratic leadership used the Senate rules to shut down the public's business.

They shut down important policy debates on prostate cancer and IRS abuses. And that's only in the two committees I was involved with. Other committees were affected.

What's apparently more important to the Democratic leadership than these issues is a partisan political issue in Louisiana. It's an issue involving campaign irregularities in a campaign in Louisiana involving one of our colleagues.

Certainly, this is an important issue, although political. But is it important enough to systematically close down the public's business?

The hearing before the Committee on Aging this morning was called at the urging of Senator SHELBY. He is a prostate cancer survivor. The hearing was designed literally to help save lives.

This year alone 335,000 American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. The ranking member of the Committee on Aging—Senator BREAUX—and I worked to put together a healthy policy debate about treatment options.

This productive debate, a debate that could help save lives, was cut short this morning because of politically motivated maneuvering through Senate rules. We were therefore unable to engage in a full debate about when to screen and how to treat prostate cancer.

Among the 10 witnesses scheduled to testify this morning was the distinguished former Senate majority leader Bob Dole. I'm happy we were able to hear his statement before the shutdown.

Senator Dole's testimony this morning was his first official event on Capitol Hill since he left the Senate in June 1996.

No better way, in my view, to get the message out.

Today, I think this legislative body would be well-served to remember the productive, bi-partisan leadership of Senator Dole. The people's business was always Bob Dole's first concern as he presided over the work of the Senate for many years.

The second very important effort stopped by this maneuvering today was landmark hearings of the Finance Committee to expose the excesses and abuses of the American taxpayer at the hands of the Internal Revenue Service.

The fair-minded and very capable chairman, Senator ROTH, spent 8 months preparing these hearings to talk about the specific problems and to consider specific solutions on how the IRS can be restructured to work for taxpayers, not against them and at the expense of the civil liberties of individual Americans.

All of this was disrupted by the Democratic leadership who put petty politics ahead of the public's health. I'm very disappointed. And I wouldn't be surprised to learn of the public's disappointment as well.

The Democratic leadership needs to explain to the American people why partisan politics seems more important than No. 1: raising the awareness of the second-leading cause of cancer death for men, prostate cancer. No. 2: exposing abuse and mistreatment of hard-working taxpayers at the hands of the IRS.

If you don't like the investigation into campaign irregularities in Louisiana, fine. But should the priorities of the American people be shoved aside for the partisan concerns of a political party? I don't think so.

Mr. JEFFORDS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized to speak for 2 minutes. copy

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I yield the Senator from New Hampshire 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator yielding. I wanted to speak on another item.

Mr. JEFFORDS. We have a very limited debate time.

Mr. GREGG. Can I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed for 5 minutes under morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KENNEDY. Reserving the right, I apologize to the manager. Could I hear that request again?

Mr. GREGG. The request was to proceed for 5 minutes as if in morning business.

Mr. KENNEDY. I have no objection.

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