

sanctions. The Secretary of State is saying it. You would 'have been subject to sanctions based on various provisions of our laws.'

This is the other part that was in the secret agreement with Chernomyrdin, that "we are prepared to take steps" that I previously read. The administration itself is saying, look, we agreed with you not to sanction you, but if we hadn't agreed to it, you would have been subject to U.S. sanctions law. Does the Vice President have the authority to waive U.S. sanctions? He doesn't have that authority to do this. Yet that is what he did.

I want to show you some of what we are talking about, the weaponry that has been conveyed. This is one piece of equipment, Russian attack submarines for Iran, three Kilo-class attack submarines have been conveyed under this agreement. We have, as I mentioned, attack helicopters, airplanes. The administration was saying, look, we are not going to sanction you because we have secretly agreed not to sanction you.

I don't want to go on a long time about this. I just want to continue to raise this issue because I am deeply troubled about a couple of things.

No. 1, for 4 years I have been holding hearings about conveyance of weaponry from Russia to Iran and pressing the administration, what are you doing to stop this conveyance of weaponry from Russia to Iran, because our allies will face this equipment in the future. They wring their hands and say, it is terrible what is going on. And then nothing would happen.

Now, 14 days ago, I found out the reason nothing is going to happen—a secret agreement was agreed to that they weren't going to sanction Russia. They were going to let it go ahead and continue to happen. Now we face heightened danger in the Persian Gulf. This equipment is there, and some of it is still being conveyed.

No. 2, we have asked the administration, show us the agreement. You should have shown it to us when it took place so we could understand what this is. I believe there was a violation of the law then. We need to see these documents now. They say nothing illegal has taken place. OK, then, fine. Show us the documents.

A letter was sent today. We want to see the documents of this agreement. We don't want to continue to read about it in the newspaper. We want to see the documents. Convey them to us; send it in a closed session. If there is national security interests, we want to see these documents. That is what we are saying now.

What I am also saying is, what I have stated this evening, if we don't have these by noon on Monday, we will seek a subpoena to receive these documents and get them from the administration.

I think this is highly suspect, what has taken place by the administration. We are only now finding out about it. We need to see what it was that the ad-

ministration agreed to, what it is that is still taking place between Russia and Iran, and why the United States is not stepping in to stop this.

I believe you will be hearing more about this unless the administration comes forward and comes clean. I hope they do. I hope they tell us: Here it is, and here is all of what we agreed to. Here is why we agreed to all of this. Here is why we think this is working, rather than it isn't.

But right now, all we have are secret deals that somehow are getting leaked out to the newspapers, and we don't even know what the agreement is. We don't know what it is. We deserve to know what that agreement is.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### STRIPPING JIM LYONS' AUTHORITY AT USDA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the Founding Fathers intended that the legislative process work through strongly held policy differences to establish the law of the land. They saw open dialogue as central to our democracy, and their vision has served the American people well for over 200 years. It is regrettable, therefore, when policy disagreements degenerate into acts of retribution against individual public servants whose only transgression is to execute the directives of the President they serve.

That is exactly what happened recently when a provision was inserted into the fiscal year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations Bill stripping the USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Jim Lyons, of his authority to administer the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service until his term in office expires in January 2000. This provision is not only unfair to Mr. Lyons, it undermines the separation of powers doctrine because it is designed solely to intimidate administration officials who are faithful to the policies of the President.

What has Mr. Lyons done, you might ask, to warrant such rebuke? The simple answer is: he has done a difficult job conscientiously.

Mr. President, Mr. Lyons was confirmed as the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment by the Senate in May of 1993. As Undersecretary, he administers two important agencies—the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service—that include nearly half the employees in the Department.

I have worked closely with Mr. Lyons over the past 8 years and respect greatly his work ethic, his understanding of

the issues within his agencies' jurisdiction and his commitment to the public policy making process. We have had policy disagreements, but I have never had reason to question Mr. Lyons' dedication to his job or fitness to serve as Undersecretary.

Mr. Lyons has provided steady and clear leadership during his tenure at USDA, tackling many complex and controversial issues that have plagued the conservation and forestry communities for years. While many of these policy challenges defy easy solution, Jim Lyons never shirked his responsibility to address them. Further, it has been his hallmark to solicit and discuss the views of all parties in a search of common ground in the pursuit of Administration objectives. That approach was particularly evident in the policy dispute that culminated in the Agriculture Appropriations rider relieving Mr. Lyons of line authority for the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, NRE, has responsibility within USDA for working with the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, on issues affecting clean water and air, agriculture, forestry and other environmental concerns. It was in this role that Mr. Lyons entered into negotiations with the EPA to reduce the impact of EPA's proposed Total Maximum Daily Load, TMDL, rule on agriculture and forestry, while helping to ensure our continued progress in improving the quality of the waters of the United States.

After months of negotiation with the EPA, Mr. Lyons helped construct a rule that would provide for measured progress in reducing non-point source pollution through the use of voluntary, incentive-based programs administered largely through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Many of the provisions objectionable to commodity groups and the Farm Bureau were dropped from the final rule or significantly modified. The provisions affecting silvicultural activities and forestry were dropped altogether.

In August, the President announced the final TMDL rules, and, in response to concerns expressed by Members of Congress, delayed their implementation for one year. Nonetheless, some who were upset that EPA had elected even to proceed with the rules decided to take their frustration out on Mr. Lyons, charging that he had not done enough to fight this rulemaking. As a consequence, language was added to the House version of the fiscal year 2001 Agriculture Appropriations bill defunding Mr. Lyons' office.

At the urging of Senator COCHRAN and his colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee, the House agreed to restore funding for the Undersecretary's office, but eliminate Mr. Lyons' authority to manage, supervise or direct his agencies—the job he had sworn to do and for which this