

the tone has been set by my friend from North Dakota, but I just say that there are so many examples of people coming together. The example of the blood drives is certainly one of the most appropriate.

People are now all over America in reservation lines. They are there to sign up to give blood 2 weeks from now, 3 weeks from now because the lines are so long.

I think my friend from North Dakota would agree that the prayer service held today at the National Cathedral was touched. I think everyone there participated with the prayers. Billy Graham gave some remarks. He has been an adviser to many Presidents over the years, and even though his body is frail, his mind certainly is not.

I hope all Americans will realize that the President of the United States needs everyone's prayers now. There are 535 Members of Congress. I was able to sit with Senator DORGAN today at the prayer service at the National Cathedral. We were together. And that is what we legislatures are; we are together; we are always with each other. But the President of the United States is alone. He does not have people to lean on. He has to make decisions by himself.

So I hope that everyone will be involved in praying for this President, recognizing the tremendous burdens he has and the decisions he has to make, decisions that are so vitally important to the virtual freedom of this country, matters dealing with life and death.

So I do hope people will join together and have continual prayers for this country and the President of the United States.

THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of all Senators, I express my appreciation to the Presiding Officer. It is a real sacrifice to be here on a Friday afternoon, where there isn't a lot going on on the floor, but there were things that had to be done. Of course, the Senator from Vermont is known for his patience. And here is another example of it.

So on behalf of all Senators, thank you very much for your time and for the many hours this afternoon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2590

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday at 10 a.m. the Appropriations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2590, the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my hope that the Senate will be in a position to consider the Defense authorization bill next week. The majority lead-

er will be consulting with the Republican leader as to its scheduling.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Monday, September 17, for a pro forma session only; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 19. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Monday, the Senate will convene at 10 a.m. for a pro forma session and adjourn until Wednesday at 10 a.m. On Wednesday, the Senate may consider any available appropriations bills or the Department of Defense authorization bill. No rollcall votes will occur prior to 10 a.m., Thursday, September 20.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator HARKIN.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REID). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JOHN NEGROPONTE TO REPRESENT THE U.S. AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon at this late hour on Friday at the close of a terrible week—a week which has seared itself into our very being for the rest of our lives—to object to the approval of John Negroponte to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

I understand an agreement was reached that this nomination be passed on a voice vote today. It has been made, and certainly I will honor and

respect the agreement. However, I believe this nomination deserves a full debate on the Senate floor and a full look into the record of this individual who is about to represent all of us in the United Nations.

I understand and I agree that America needs a U.N. ambassador. We do need someone there, especially given the terrorist attacks on our Nation this week, in terms of an international dialog and international response to this terrorist attack. But I believe it is also important that all Senators be given an opportunity to vote on this controversial nomination and to debate it.

Why is Mr. Negroponte's nomination so controversial? Why did the Baltimore Sun, in April of this year, devote a five-part series just on this one nominee? Well, I think there are two considerations that stand out in my mind, and I will explain why I oppose his nomination.

First of all, Mr. Negroponte showed a callous disregard for human rights abuses throughout his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras between 1981 and 1985, during which time I traveled to Honduras and, in fact, went out to one of the contra camps with the Ambassador at that time. Quite frankly, in my conversations at that time in Honduras, and with the later revelations of what was going on with Battalion 316, which was supervised and basically trained by our CIA and our military personnel—when a lot of these issues came to light, it became clear to me that during my trip there I was misled and, quite frankly, not given the correct information that I sought.

Secondly, I believe Mr. Negroponte knowingly misinformed the U.S. State Department about gross human rights violations in Honduras and throughout Central America during the height of the so-called contra war in Central America in the 1980s.

That action, in turn, resulted in the Congress being misled as to the scope and nature of gross human rights violations that were being committed by the contras and by the Honduran military and, in particular, Battalion 316 in the Honduran military.

In a letter to The Economist in 1982, then-Ambassador Negroponte wrote:

It is simply untrue that death squads have made appearances in Honduras.

Yet from 1981 to 1984 over 150 people disappeared, including one American priest, Father James Carney, whose body has never been recovered.

All indications are it was Battalion 316 that took custody of and had control over Father Carney. There had been reports that they interrogated him, that he was severely tortured and killed—he was an American citizen, an American priest—during the time of Mr. Negroponte's ambassadorship.

I am not saying in any way he was responsible. I do not want anyone to get that wrong. All I am saying is as Ambassador at that time, there is a lot of evidence to show he just turned a