

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the majority leader has asked me to announce there will be no more rollcall votes tonight. The managers may have some other business to do. But basically this is the end of rollcall votes for tonight.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent—I have cleared this on the other side—the pending amendment be set aside temporarily to offer an amendment. I have cleared this with Senator GRAMM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3521 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3401

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk. This would be the Democrats' next in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. JEFFORDS, proposes an amendment numbered 3521 to amendment No. 3401.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To authorize appropriations for certain staff of the United States Customs Service)

At the end of the title relating to Customs Reauthorization, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CUSTOMS STAFFING.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Treasury such sums as may be necessary to provide an increase in the annual rate of basic pay—

(1) for all journeyman Customs inspectors and Canine Enforcement Officers who have completed at least one year's service and are receiving an annual rate of basic pay for positions at GS-9 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, from the annual rate of basic pay payable for positions at GS-9 of the General Schedule under section 5332, to an annual rate of basic pay payable for positions at GS-11 of the General Schedule under such section 5332; and

(2) for the support staff associated with the personnel described in subparagraph (A), at the appropriate GS level of the General Schedule under such section 5332.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on Calendar No. 295, H.R. 3009, the Andean Trade Preference Act.

Max Baucus, Zell Miller, Harry Reid, Tom Carper, Joseph Lieberman, Tom

Daschle, Jeff Bingaman, Christopher Bond, Larry E. Craig, Gordon Smith of Oregon, Chuck Grassley, Orrin Hatch, Pete Domenici, Pat Roberts, Chuck Hagel, and Robert F. Bennett.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

THE DEATH OF SGT. GENE VANCE IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, we received confirmation yesterday that Sergeant Gene Vance of Morgantown, West Virginia, was killed on Sunday in an exchange of gunfire near the village of Shkin, near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. Sergeant Vance was a member of the 19th Special Forces Group of the West Virginia National Guard. His unit was patrolling southeastern Afghanistan in an effort to locate and eliminate any pockets of al Qa'eda and Taliban resistance. Sergeant Vance was the first American killed in combat in Afghanistan since March.

On behalf of all the Member of the Senate—I believe I can so speak—I want to express to Sergeant Vance's wife, Lisa, and daughter, Amber, our deepest sympathy at their loss and ours.

I extend those condolences to other members of Sergeant Vance's family who must be going through the kind of grief to which some people have become accustomed, but not many.

He was a member of the West Virginia National Guard. I had the honor to be Governor of West Virginia for 8 years. I know it just so happens that the West Virginia National Guard has top rankings all across the country in all respects—professionally audited, so to speak. There is no stronger embodiment of the patriotism that runs so deep in the mountains of my State of West Virginia.

America's early success in the war in Afghanistan, and in driving the Taliban from power, has created for many Americans the illusion that things have returned to normal. A few more metal detectors, a few more security guards, a longer line to board airplanes, but otherwise life seems to be getting back to the way it was before September 11. That is foolhardy thinking.

Sergeant Vance knew it, and he was doing his duty. The Vice President asserted, I think correctly, that there will be more attacks, that we are foolish if we are not prepared, if we are not mindful of this fact.

But if we Americans are managing to live our daily lives without fear, that may bring us some comfort, but it is entirely due to the courageous efforts being made by men such as Sergeant Vance and women in uniform in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Their efforts are not always the lead stories anymore, but they are taking the time to do the job right—eliminating the terrorists who perpetrated the attacks on this country on September 11.

In an era, as they say, of asymmetric threats, when small groups can develop weapons of mass destruction—and now we are looking at the probability of suicide bombers—and a group of 19 fanatics can carry out with relative ease an attack of unprecedented devastation on American soil, it is clear that our security will not be assured until we eliminate—not defeat but eliminate—the terrorists who are committed to hurting us.

Our forces in Afghanistan continue to perform a vital national task, and we had all darn well better recognize that. The death of Sergeant Vance is a reminder that they continue to put themselves at considerable risk, in unbelievably hostile territory, and often in a hostile society.

I do not know what it is that makes fine Americans feel so deeply the love of their country that they are prepared to risk their life for it. I want to say that I know what it is. But I think it is a mystery that all of us revere, and it is within the soul and the heart of each individual person who goes over to fight and to defend our way of life. In other words, we can never know that entirely. But we can know, and what we must never forget, is that we Americans, who enjoy the freedoms and comforts our society provides, only do so because men such as Sergeant Vance are willing to do what they did: Engage in firefight and lose their life.

So we mourn the death of Sergeant Vance in Afghanistan, and we are reminded yet again that America's strength is built on the individual decisions of hundreds of thousands of people who make those decisions in their own individual ways. Sometimes, of course, they cannot foresee what will happen. They sign up. They go. They cannot foresee what is going to happen. Sometimes what happens brings great sadness to many people.

To Sergeant Vance's wife and daughter, as you grieve, let your sense of loss be joined by the knowledge that Gene Vance died for a just and noble cause. He was prepared to put himself on the line for America, for Americans, and for the society that he wanted you, Lisa, and you, Amber, to be able to live in, in peace.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.