

make sure that we do not lose sight of these basic bread-and-butter economic issues so important to families and so important to people's lives.

We have a lot of work to do. I hope we will do it.

I say to my colleague from Connecticut, the reason I came over is that I am ready to offer an amendment. I think we need to do the work. I want to wait to see what my colleague has to say. I congratulate him on his superb work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I thank my friend and colleague from Minnesota. In a moment, I will call up an amendment, which is the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee substitute amendment on homeland security, the substitute for the House bill that was sent over here. I will speak on the substitute amendment.

It had been my thought that, in the normal course, Senator THOMPSON, as ranking member on the committee, would introduce the first amendment. I have some reason to believe he may not be prepared to do that right away. But we are prepared to go forward.

I want to indicate—and perhaps my friend from Minnesota will want to talk to the leader about this—that I understand that Senator DASCHLE and Senator LOTT are prepared to move to table any amendments that they consider to be non-relevant to homeland security. Although, as the Senator from Minnesota knows, I share his anger about tax traders—if I may use that term—or tax evaders and support what he wants to do.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I say to my colleague, in the strict text, I have drafted it as a relevant amendment.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I look forward to reasoning with the Senator and the leadership on that very question.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, is the bill going to be reported now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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#### HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 5005, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5005) to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from

Connecticut is recognized to call up amendment No. 4471.

Mr. REID. Madam President, will the Senator from Connecticut yield to let me say a word or two?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I will.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have been a part of some conversations. I think the two leaders are going to have Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator THOMPSON, the managers, determine what is relevant. I don't think they are going to do that. They will follow your lead on that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4471

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I call up amendment No. 4471 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] proposes an amendment numbered 4471.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of Tuesday, September 3, 2002, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, this legislation is a result of the bipartisan work of the committee, and the occupant of the chair, the Senator from Missouri, has been a contributing member of it. It was endorsed by our committee on July 25 by a 12-to-5 vote. I believe very strongly that this deserves passage by the full Senate.

The substitute I am offering was modified in two respects after the committee held its business meetings in July. First, we added an offset to certain direct spending in the bill related, in fact, to civil service reform. Second, we have clarified earlier language about the conduct of risk and threat assessment by the new Department. Both changes were made after canvassing members of our committee and with the approval of the majority of the committee. I will describe them in more detail in a few moments.

This amendment, almost a year in the making, would create a focused and accountable Department of Homeland Security to enable our domestic defenses to rise to the unprecedented challenge of defeating terrorism on our home soil. Our defenses are either disorganized or organized for another day that is past.

This bill aims to reorganize our homeland defenses to meet the unprecedented threats from terrorism that are sadly part of the 21st century. This amendment would also create a White House office to ensure coordination across the many offices involved in the fight against terrorism, including intelligence, diplomatic and law enforcement agencies, foreign policy agencies,

and economic assistance agencies that will remain outside the Department.

We recognize that the threat of terrorism on American soil will painfully be with us for some time. Therefore, the American people deserve and demand a Government equipped to meet and beat that threat. This committee-endorsed bill is presented in three divisions. Division A establishes a Department of Homeland Security, a White House office, and a national strategy for combating terrorism. Division B incorporates the provisions of the bipartisan Kennedy-Brownback reform of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

We are going to hear a lot during the debate, I am confident, about the need for further reorganization of the constituent agencies we have brought together in this bill. But the committee-endorsed bill actually does undertake a massive reorganization of the one agency that just about everyone agrees is in desperate need of reform, and that is the INS. Division C incorporates consensus civil service reforms, themselves the product of intensive collaboration and discussion over a period of time—months and perhaps years—that were added as an amendment by the bipartisan team of Senators VOINOVICH and AKAKA.

I expect we will hear people saying that our legislation hasn't given the President all the management flexibility he has asked for. Of course, that is literally true because we believe the administration's request simply went too far, usurping not only the fundamental responsibility of Congress to adopt civil service laws, but to undermine important protections that guard the workplace and Federal workers against favoritism and also that create some limits on the executive, some sense of accountability that is placed on those who have sway over those who have chosen to serve the public as Federal employees.

I urge my fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle to look carefully at the reforms we have incorporated and the new flexibilities that we do provide, which are sensible and significant indeed and, I believe, if passed, would give the Secretary of Homeland Security more management flexibility than any Secretary operating under current law has ever had.

I know this promises to be a controversial discussion, a serious discussion, and sometimes a passionate discussion. I look forward to airing our differences, resolving them, and getting a good bill to conference and then to the President's desk, certainly by the end of this session.

We in the Congress have accomplished great and seemingly daunting tasks in the past; but, honestly, I can think of few in my time in the Senate, which is now 14 years, that have been more critical to our common future and cry out to us to work across party lines, to raise America's guard against the savage, inhumane, cunning threat