

being subjected to the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

I would not have said this 4 years ago, but we will defeat this little virus. When I close my eyes, that is what I see: this little virus—and all the death and destruction—but this little tiny virus, in part because I am a doctor. When I think of disease, I always look at the cause of it. But it is that little virus. We will defeat it. Let me repeat that: We will. It will be with the leadership of the United States of America. And by “leadership,” I am talking about this body, working with the President, working with the House of Representatives, working with the public-private partnerships. With that leadership, we will defeat this virus.

But the question is—and the reason timing is important—how many children and women and men are going to die before we defeat the virus? I already told you, in the best of all worlds, for every one person who died in the last 20 years, two are going to die in the next 20. Even if we discovered a vaccine right now, that is going to happen, because the vaccine is for prevention.

The real question is, Will 60 million or 80 million or 100 million people die? Or, again, under the leadership of the President of the United States, and with the legislation that we can generate in this body, instead of it being 100 million, can it be 20 million or 40 million or 45 million or 50 million? Or will it grow from 100 million to 200 million or 300 million?

That is the urgency. That is why we need an emergency response. And that is why, as a physician, as someone who, with my own hands, has had the opportunity to work with hundreds of HIV/AIDS patients in this country and in many countries in Africa, it means so much to me. I have seen that so directly.

The answer is in our hands. Literally, it is in our hands. We are capable today of slowing this pandemic. It is going to increase in the near future. There is nothing we can do about that. But we can slow the trajectory. Indeed, in countries such as Uganda it has already flattened and decreased, so we know there are things we can do now to reverse this trajectory. But we have to choose to fight first. We need to make that commitment the President made 2 nights ago and fight it with our will, fight it with resources, fight it with energy and as much spirit as we can muster.

I will close because I know it is late, and we have worked again aggressively over the course of the day and have made real progress, but I will close by simply saying, the President, I know, is committed in both word and deed. I think it is now time for our body, this legislative body, to come together to work for this legislation and help lead a great people and a great nation to overcome one of the greatest moral and public health challenges the world will face in the 21st century.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could ask the majority leader to yield just for a brief second, I of course appreciate very much the majority leader's statement. It has even more meaning based on his being a physician. But having been to Africa just a few months ago for the second time, and to see the difference in the approximately 8 or 9 years from the time I first went, to see the devastation by this plague that is sweeping this continent is stark.

It is frightening to think that thousands of people every day in that continent are dying—not hundreds. They don't take weekends off. There are no vacations. They continue to die during those periods of time.

I say to my distinguished Republican leader, I also appreciate President Bush devoting some of his time in the State of the Union Address to AIDS and acknowledging that there is a need to do more financially. I appreciate that very much.

I do say, however, to the majority leader, that, as you know, we tried last year to pass the same initiative. So it is not as if we have been standing still. We tried to do this in the past and, frankly, we were held up in its passage.

I also say that the United States, of course, is doing a lot, doing more than any other country, as the majority leader has indicated. But I believe we have an obligation to do that. I think it is good that we are doing it. I think we should do more.

I also would like to support what the majority leader has said. The Gates Foundation is exemplary. I think it is wonderful we have a private sector joining to try to do something to defeat this plague. That is what it is.

EARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. REID. Having said that, I want to say to the majority leader, separate and apart from HIV/AIDS, that the reason I came here—I am very glad I did because I was educated by the leader's speech—there are not opportunities to do this all the time, it is early in the session, it is early in your leadership but I would just like to say we have, I think, done some good work. Last week, we were able to complete the appropriations bill. There were some who said we were going to try to stop it.

The leader took our word for it and didn't file cloture early. I think that set a good tone in this body. Some of the time we spent last week was tedious, but it set a good foundation. I would also say, based on conversations we had off the floor today with you and the Democratic leader, it was not all that likely we would be able to complete the work on a very important nomination you have wanted, the President has wanted, but we were able to work that out.

The only reason I mention that tonight is, there will be days when I am

sure you will criticize us, and we will criticize you for not being able to get a lot of things done. We sure appreciate the days we have.

I know the leader has not decided what time we will start on the Estrada nomination. I will talk to you privately about that, what time we should do that Tuesday. I think we have been able to accomplish some good things today.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will get to the closing statements. I briefly want to respond that in the past 3 weeks we have had a lot to do. It has been an opportunity for us to work hand in hand, and I think what has happened over the last initial 12 days, and then now over the last 4 days, does demonstrate that with an aggressive agenda, that by working together and cooperating and, yes, negotiating, we can work through and achieve great accomplishments for the country. I appreciate his comments.

Mr. REID. I would also say, I did not realize the leader had decided what time to go to the nomination on Tuesday. We would rather start it after the caucuses on Tuesday. But if the leader feels he needs to go at 10, we will be ready to go at 10 Tuesday morning.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it would be best if we could go ahead to the nomination earlier in the day, as spelled out in the unanimous consent agreement, again, just to maximize the use of our time. I will offer the proposal that we go in the morning.

Let me also say, because we are shortly going to approve the nomination of the Secretary of the Treasury, I didn't think even 8 hours ago we would be able to do that. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to do that, complete it tonight, and then move in the appropriate fashion with the Estrada nomination.

Mr. REID. If the leader will yield, I should have said that good work was done this afternoon with the Secretary-nominee, Mr. Snow, meeting with Senators DURBIN and HARKIN. He obviously did an excellent job. I express my appreciation to him, but also to Senators DURBIN and HARKIN for allowing us to move forward.

FUNDING TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS ABROAD

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to laud President Bush's announcement in his State of the Union Address of a \$15 billion, 5-year emergency plan for AIDS relief, with \$10 billion in new money to combat the global AIDS pandemic, provides new hope for many of the 42 million men, women, and children living with AIDS right now. This initiative, which I enthusiastically support, represents a critical first step in scaling up the world's response to the global AIDS pandemic. Combined with expanded, though still relatively small, bilateral resources to fight tuberculosis, the leading killer of people with AIDS, this initiative can save