

or bad or what, the fact that the President of the United States was put under oath sent a clear message to the people of this country. No President is above the law, neither then nor now. It is time for this President and this Vice President to be put under oath. What happened 1 year and 7 days ago is unconscionable, unprecedented, harmful, dangerous to the security of our country.

The President of the United States could have solved this in 24 hours by calling in every one of his top senior officials, have them sign a piece of paper, have them swear under oath that they did not do this and had nothing to do with this. We could have solved it in 24 hours, but the President of the United States dismissed this. He sort of pooch-pooched the whole thing, smiled about it, and said, I don't think we will catch whoever did this.

Where is the sense of outrage by this President and Vice President that two senior officials would so brazenly, with such calculation, expose the cover, expose the person in the CIA with assets around the world, giving human intelligence to our CIA which we need so desperately in our war against terrorism.

I task the Senate this morning, as I will every day, to call upon the President and the Vice President and to call upon the special prosecutor to put the President and Vice President under oath. If this is not resolved, America will become weaker, less secure, and more vulnerable. We cannot allow that to happen to this country.

The people who exposed Valerie Plame are guilty of violating a law and they should be punished to the full extent of that law. That sends the signal to any other administration, be it Democrat or Republican, that this kind of treachery, this kind of violation of our laws, will not be permitted under any administration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, how much time do we have remaining on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 11 minutes remaining.

THE SENATE SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to direct a question through the Chair to the distinguished Senator from Illinois, who is on the floor.

Will the Senator from Illinois comment on the Senate schedule? We wasted a week, as the Senator may recall, on class action, where nothing was done. Then we spent a week on the marriage amendment when everyone knew, before it started, there were not enough votes. And then so far this week we spent yesterday on a judge. Nothing happened on that. The rest of the day we spent on a free-trade agreement with Morocco, where the actual time on that bill has been less than an hour and a half on actual speeches

given. Even though there was 20 hours allotted, we were willing to yield back our time from early on in that debate. Now we are told we are still not going to go to legislative session, that we are going to work on more judges even though we have approved almost a record number of judges.

I ask my friend, does the Senator from Illinois think it is important we deal with other issues people in Illinois and Nevada talk to us about, such as doing an appropriations bill for homeland security or moving to something that is important to the people of Nevada, and that is maybe consider raising the minimum wage?

These are just a couple thoughts that come to the mind of the Senator from Nevada. Will the Senator from Illinois comment?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would say, in response to my colleague from Nevada, I have had a number of jobs in my lifetime, and we are fortunate we are on salary on this job because if our pay depended on what we did and what we produced, we would not be drawing a paycheck around here for weeks at a time. We waste so much time on the floor of the Senate, it is hard to imagine.

We spent a whole week on a class action bill that went nowhere. Then we spent a better part of a week on a constitutional amendment on same-sex marriage that went nowhere. Now we are about to waste a third week in a row.

At the same time, I think there are 12 appropriations bills that have not been considered. During this period of time, we had notification from Secretary Ridge at the Department of Homeland Security and our FBI Director that America was going to face an attack. Most Americans stood up and took notice, as they should, and called our offices and said: What should we do? And we said: Lead your lives. Keep your eyes open.

But it is clear what we should do. Take a look at this Calendar. Right on the back of our Senate Calendar, the lead items are the Homeland Security appropriations bills. These are multi-billion-dollar bills that will appropriate money to give to State and local governments as well as Federal agencies to make America safer—sitting on the Calendar for a month, without even being considered.

We will take a break, at the end of this week, for 6 weeks. We will be gone. We will come back, and they will still be sitting on the Calendar. God forbid anything happens in America. We are not going to do anything to deal with them.

Then you page through this Calendar and find bills waiting for action dealing with security at nuclear powerplants, security at ports across America, security at chemical plants, security on rail lines. If we paid any attention to Secretary Ridge, as we should, and Director Mueller, we would be meeting today with Senators on the Senate

floor passing this legislation. Instead, we are killing time. We are doing nothing.

Now, it is hard to explain why this do-nothing Congress is wasting time when it should be, in fact, doing things to make America safer. I do not understand why the leaders in this Congress cannot pick up the very Calendar they print every day, turn to the back page and read the top line: homeland security. Pretty clear: homeland security. Yet we have not passed this legislation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will direct another question through the Chair to my friend from Illinois.

I am not proud of this, but the State of Nevada is the least insured State for medical care in the country. We lead the Nation in uninsured. But there are 44 million people in America who have no health insurance. Even if we did not pass legislation dealing with the calamities facing American families because of no health insurance, don't you think we could talk about it? Don't you think we could bring something up?

For example, I know the Senator from Illinois has worked on this, the Senator from North Dakota has been a leader on this, as has been the Senator from Michigan, Ms. STABENOW: How about making it easy on the American people by allowing us to buy the same drugs we pay a fortune for here in America cheaper from the country just north of us, Canada? Wouldn't that be a good thing to work on?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I say, in response to the Senator from Nevada, he obviously does not understand the world as the folks across the aisle from us see it. They believe that families across America get up every morning and want to know whether the latest constitutional amendment has passed. They think that is what families do—rush to the television set, turn it on, and say quickly: Honey, did they pass a constitutional amendment?

That is not what I find. What I find at home is that families get together and say: I hope we can keep our job. I hope, for goodness' sake, that next year health insurance doesn't cost as much as it did last year and cover less.

That is the reality. That is the reality of life for families across America. So you wonder if those of us elected to the Senate really represent America and are listening to American families and businesses and labor unions, who tell us time and time again: The cost of health insurance is killing us. Why don't you do something?

Instead, the leadership in the Senate, in this do-nothing Congress, comes forward and says: We are going to blow off 3 days on the floor of the U.S. Senate debating a constitutional amendment about same-sex marriage.

Well, my wife and I have been married for 37 years. We believe in traditional marriage. But, for goodness' sake, why do you need to amend the

Constitution—in a Presidential election year, I might add—instead of talking about the cost of health insurance and making it more affordable and more accessible for people across America? That is a real issue, and it is an issue that has been really avoided by the leadership in this Senate.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I direct another question to my distinguished friend.

About 6 weeks ago, I asked all 17 superintendents of school districts in Nevada to meet with me. We have 17 counties in Nevada. Each county has a superintendent of schools. The largest school district has about 300,000 students; the smallest, Esmeralda County, with 88 students. I don't know what their political affiliation is, but I will bet a lot more are Republicans.

We met for a couple hours. They were all asked the question: How is the Leave No Child Behind Act treating you in your school district? Without exception, every one of the superintendents said: The Leave No Child Behind Act is leaving children of Nevada behind, without exception. They said: Please change this. Give us some resources.

I say to my friend, education is important in Nevada. The Leave No Child Behind Act has been a disaster for Nevada. Shouldn't we be spending some time talking about education in the U.S. Senate rather than class action, marriage, and a few judges. We have approved more than 100. They want to defer attention away from the real issues of this country, so we are spending days of our existence on the Senate floor talking about judges. Shouldn't we be dealing with education?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I agree with the Senator from Nevada. In response, I would say, the reason why the Senate does not talk about education is because the President's education bill, No Child Left Behind, has been underfunded by \$20 billion. We put Federal mandates on school districts that cost them enormous sums of money, which changed the way teachers teach in a classroom.

This administration—the President and his followers in Congress—has refused to send the money to help kids who are not scoring well on tests, kids who need someone to sit next to them and help them read, someone to help them understand basic math, someone to be there after school to sit down and work with them on their homework, someone to be with them in the summer months so they can do something and not lose all the knowledge they gained in the previous school year.

It takes people—dedicated men and women—who are teachers. It takes money. This administration says the money should go for tax cuts for wealthy people; it should not go for education. We should continue to spend \$1.5 billion a week in Iraq, with no end in sight. That is why we don't talk about education.

This administration will not budget the money to pay for the Federal man-

dates the President included in No Child Left Behind. Ask any school district—in Nevada, Illinois, across America—what do you think of No Child Left Behind? We like accountability, but where is the promised money the President said would come to the school district to help us improve test scores? It is not there. That is why this do-nothing Congress avoids the issue of education, like the issue of helping families and businesses pay for health insurance.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I believe our time has expired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 30 seconds.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, it is interesting to listen to my friends on the other side of the aisle this morning talk about any number of issues, in particular what we have been doing over the last several weeks—really the last several months—relative to the legislative agenda in the Senate. This is the only legislative body, I am sure, anywhere in the world that, because it is the most deliberative body in the world, allows the minority to in effect set the agenda because they have the ability to stop any legislation or debate or control the debate on any legislation unless the majority can obtain 60 votes to bring the debate to an end.

Here we have folks standing up this morning being critical of the leadership on this side of the aisle for not moving forward with a legislative agenda when, for the first time in the history of our great country, certainly the first time in the history of this great deliberative body, we have the folks on the other side of the aisle filibustering circuit court judge nominees of the President of the United States. That has never happened before.

There is one simple reason it is happening now. That is, in spite of this body approving hundreds of more liberal-leaning judges during the 8 years of the previous administration, the Democrats in the Senate refuse to allow more conservative judges to be appointed and confirmed by this President. We had another yesterday relative to another judge that is now being filibustered. That takes time.

In addition, the folks on the other side of the aisle are doing something I have never heard of in my 10 years of service on Capitol Hill; that is, they are demanding that before we go to conference on any bill, the end result of that conference be deemed to be so-and-so, which is to their way of liking, before they will agree to appoint conferees. That is not the way the legislative process works. The American people select the majority party in the Senate and the House to pass legislation. The majority should control, but, unfortunately, it does not.

Lastly, I am a big supporter of the No Child Left Behind program. I am a huge supporter of public education. It

is the foundation of the future of America. I am happy to be the husband of a 30-year former schoolteacher. My daughter starts next week teaching in the public schools in my home county. My mother was a public school teacher. My brother is a public school teacher. I am a huge fan.

In spite of what I have just heard, I have yet to meet a teacher anywhere in America who doesn't say: I love the idea of providing accountability to the American people for the quality of education that I am providing to the children I teach. That is the basic concept of No Child Left Behind.

Sure, we have had problems with No Child Left Behind. Every major reform is going to have bumps in the road. I did four hearings in my State, invited every single school superintendent in all 159 counties, plus the city schools in my State to get together to bring their administrative personnel, but primarily bring me your teachers. I wanted to hear from them what complaints they had. They had serious complaints that were discussed with representatives of the U.S. Department of Education and the Georgia Department of Education. We resolved—we didn't resolve all of them, but we went to work and we got their complaints answered. We made changes in the regulations. All I heard this morning is: Well, No Child Left Behind doesn't work. Everybody is upset.

Everybody is not upset with it. I assure my colleagues, there has been no legislation coming forward from the other side of the aisle to try to correct it. It is simply a political year. It is unbelievable what we hear on the floor of the Senate these days. That is not what I got up here to talk about this morning, but I couldn't listen to that and not comment on it.

INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I want to say something about Ambassador Wilson and his activities, but I see Senator BOND is here. He is going to follow me, and I know he is going to talk about that. Suffice it to say, only one comment needs to be directed about the issue of Mr. WILSON; that is, he didn't tell the truth. He didn't tell the truth, and that is explicitly set forth in the Senate intelligence report. It was also set forth in the report issued by Mr. Butler in Britain last week.

On the 7th of July, Chairman ROBERTS and Vice Chairman ROCKEFELLER of the Senate Intelligence Committee released a report on the U.S. intelligence community's prewar intelligence assessments on Iraq prepared by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. This 511-page report is highly critical of our intelligence analysis and collection capabilities, especially in the field of human intelligence or what we refer to as HUMINT.

Yesterday, the Senate Intelligence Committee began the first of a series of