

spend every 3 days in our operations in Iraq. This puts a premium on ensuring the taxpayers' money is being well spent.

We won't know whether our strategy in Iraq is making true progress until real report cards start coming in.

The amendment is a reminder that the first of these report cards from the administration was due this past Monday, and that the representatives of the people in Congress are waiting.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the amendment now pending in the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Amendment No. 1161 offered by the Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. I ask that the Senate act on the amendment at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment? If not, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1161.

The amendment (No. 1161) was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. GREGG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1075

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask for the regular order with respect to amendment No. 1075. It is Senator VOINOVICH's amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 1075) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1151

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask for the regular order with respect to McCain amendment No. 1151.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is now pending.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 1151) was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. 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. GREGG. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

SENATE FIRST QUARTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, as we return from the celebrations marking our Nation's Independence Day, we should take a moment to mark the accomplishments of this Senate as we conclude the first quarter of the 109th Session of the U.S. Congress.

The list of accomplishments is impressive.

Judges to our circuit courts of appeals, stalled for years, now sit on the bench. Key legislative initiatives, once left to languish, are now the law of the land or on the brink of completion.

Class action reform protects plaintiffs from abusive coupon settlements while it prevents lawyers from gaming the system.

It had been delayed for at least a decade despite strong public support and legislative majorities. Now it has been signed into law by President Bush.

So too was a bankruptcy reform bill that ushers in a new emphasis on personal responsibility. It is another reform of our civil justice system that was long delayed, despite broad support.

We met our responsibilities to defend freedom, and the challenges of continuing to wage war on terrorism, with an emergency funding bill for Iraq.

We responded to the heart-breaking human cry for help by funding international relief efforts for victims of the Southeast Asia tsunami.

The budget resolution, which sets the vision of this nation, was completed and now permits smooth consideration of appropriations bills, tax relief measures, the highway bill, the energy bill and numerous other initiatives.

After failures to enact a budget in two of the last three sessions, getting this one in place means we are on course to meeting the President's goal of cutting the deficit in half while funding our important priorities of health, education, veterans, and homeland security.

When we've found that our budget needed to be adjusted to meet the medical needs of veterans, we voted to make the adjustments to ensure veterans have the health care they need this year as well as next.

We now are poised to soon enact a highway bill that will help Americans get where they need to go more quickly and safely, and will help create jobs within our States as well.

We are going to conference now on an Energy bill that will help reduce our national dependence on foreign sources of oil and prevent blackouts like the

one that hit the Northeast United States in 2003.

We made the homeland safer by passing the Real ID provision. These provisions tighten our borders, reform our asylum system, and safeguard our identity documents so that terrorists cannot use them to avoid detection.

We've broken the unprecedented three-year filibuster of President Bush's judicial nominees who finally received up-or-down votes. Now, Judges Owen, Pryor, Brown, Griffith, McKeague, and Griffin have each taken their oaths and assumed the Federal appellate bench.

Most recently, the Senate has expanded the benefits of free trade, economic opportunity, and political stability to new regions of our own hemisphere with Senate passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

We've made a good down payment on the appropriations process by passing the Interior, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water.

And finally, this week we have paid our respects and expressed our condolences to the victims of the London terrorist bombings, and are proceeding to work on funding our own homeland security needs.

Freedoms never had a greater ally than the valiant United Kingdom, and the United Kingdom will never have a greater friend than America. Our prayers are with that great nation today.

That is an incredible body of achievement in just six months. Where once there was inaction, we can now boast of accomplishment. We have done what the American people sent us here to do.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July weekend and paused for a moment to celebrate the fact behind those fireworks—that government of, for, and by the people can work, and that the accomplishments of this Senate show that it does work.

ETHIOPIA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to express concern about recent events in Ethiopia. On May 15, 2005, 90 percent of registered Ethiopian voters went to the polls in the country's third election under its current constitution. Unfortunately, this historic election was marred by a disputed outcome. Because of the controversy over the election, civil unrest ensued. In responding to protests by opposition parties, the Government of Ethiopia acted with excessive force, killing 36 protestors and arresting large numbers of demonstrators.

Final results of the May election were due to be completed by the National Electoral Board first by June 8, then by July 8, and are still ongoing. Interim certified results from the Electoral Board indicate that approximately 40 percent of the vote is either still under investigation or in need of review, with one region of the country still to cast its ballots.

Let me be crystal clear that the Government of Ethiopia must respect the

neutrality of the Electoral Board and permit it to go about its work in a fair and impartial manner. I also call upon Kemal Bedri Kelo, chairman of the Electoral Board, to conduct the board's proceedings in a transparent, fair and evenhanded fashion in order to ensure that the board's ultimate decision is respected by all sides.

Ethiopia is an ally of the United States. But that friendship could be strained by failure of the Ethiopian Government to observe international norms in its elections, failure by the Government to abide by the rule of law or failure by opposition groups to avoid overheated rhetoric. As chairman of the State/Foreign Operations subcommittee, I will be keeping a close eye on events in Ethiopia as they continue to unfold.

CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, RICK SANTORUM owes an immediate apology to the tragic and long-suffering victims of sexual abuse and their families in Boston, Massachusetts, in Pennsylvania, and around the country. His outrageous and offensive comments which he had the indecency to repeat yesterday blamed the people of Boston for the depraved behavior of sick individuals who stole the innocence of children in the most horrible way imaginable.

Senator SANTORUM has shown a deep and callous insensitivity to the victims and their suffering in an apparent attempt to score political points with some of the most extreme members of the fringe rightwing of his party. Boston bashing might be in vogue with some Republicans, but RICK SANTORUM's statements are beyond the pale.

Three years ago, Senator SANTORUM said:

While it is no excuse for this scandal, it is no surprise that Boston, a seat of academic, political and cultural liberalism in America, lies at the center of the storm.

When given an opportunity yesterday to apologize, he refused and instead restated these outrageous statements. The people of Boston are to be blamed for the clergy sexual abuse? That is an irresponsible, insensitive, and inexcusable thing to say. RICK SANTORUM should join all Americans in celebrating the accomplishments of the people of Boston. Apparently Senator SANTORUM has never heard of the enormous contributions of our universities and industries to our quality of life, our economic strength, and our national security.

Harvard and MIT have produced 98 Nobel laureates whose work has made an enormous difference in America's strength. Their graduates contribute to industries, Government, their communities, our Nation, and throughout the world. In fact, only a quarter of MIT graduates remain in New England. Their research keeps our Nation secure.

The Pentagon and the CIA, the military, the Energy Department, the Veterans Administration—all turn to MIT and Harvard for technology and strategies to protect our Nation from those who would hurt us, and their research in cancer, children's health, housing, community development, so many other issues, continues to make an enormous difference to the well-being and the health of our children and families.

More than a dozen current U.S. Senators were educated in Boston.

Senator FRIST was trained as a heart surgeon at Harvard Medical School. Senator DOLE went to Harvard Law School. Senator ALEXANDER went to Harvard's School of Government. Surely my memorable colleagues would not go to a school that is somehow contributing to the downfall of America. No, Mr. President, they went to a worldwide leading institution to prepare them for incredible careers of service and leadership.

Senator SANTORUM's self-righteousness also fails to take into account the enormous amount of good will the people of Boston demonstrate for the less fortunate. They started the Massachusetts Children's Hunger Initiative, working with leaders in 20 low-income communities to end hunger among children.

Boston's Children's Hospital has been ranked first in the Nation in the past decade for care and concern of sick children.

The quality of life for Boston and its families is rated third in America. Massachusetts has the lowest divorce rate in the Nation.

Massachusetts ranks in the top 10 States in the Nation when it comes to addressing the needs of at-risk or vulnerable children, including our efforts to address low birth weight babies, teen homicides and other challenges to our children. Pennsylvania doesn't even rank in the top 10.

Boston gave birth to America's liberty, and the values that sparked our revolution continue to inspire Bostonians today—love of freedom, dedication to country, and concern for our fellow citizens.

The men and women of Boston have served honorably in our Armed Forces. They fought and died for our country so that their children might live in freedom and opportunity.

The abuse of children is a horrible perversion and a tragic crime, and I am proud that the good people of Boston and Massachusetts were leaders in coming forward, shedding light, and demanding accountability for this devastating violation of children.

Sadly, the sexual abuse of children is a problem throughout the world, and it is not confined in any way to members of the clergy or to one town or one city. Every State in the country has reported child sexual abuse, including Pennsylvania.

On behalf of all the victims of abuse and the people of Boston and Massa-

chusetts, I ask that he retract his unfounded statements and apologize. I think the families of Massachusetts were hurt just as much by this terrible tragedy as the families of Pennsylvania. Abuse against children is not a liberal or conservative issue. It is a horrific, unspeakable tragedy. Sadly, it happens in every State of this great Nation—in red States and blue States, in the North and South, in big cities and in small. The victims of child sexual abuse have suffered enough already, and Senator SANTORUM should stop making a bad and very tragic situation worse.

JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY OF SUPREME COURT NOMINEES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, President Bush and Members of the Senate will soon have the duty of appointing a new justice to the Supreme Court. In recent days, there have been differences of opinion over whether we should consider the judicial philosophy of nominees to the Supreme Court as part of the appointment process. I hope the President's remarks yesterday make clear once and for all that judicial philosophy is an important part of a nominee's qualifications. President Bush said that judicial philosophy would be one of the criteria he used to choose a nominee, along with character, integrity, and the ability to do the job.

I agree with President Bush that these qualities—including judicial philosophy—are important to whether a nominee is fit to serve on the Court. Many times in recent months, and during his campaign for re-election, President Bush has said that nominees to the Federal courts must interpret the law, not make the law. He has said that we should appoint persons who would not try to legislate from the bench. This view has been echoed by Members of the Senate, both Republican and Democrat, myself included. Senators of both parties agree with the President that we should not appoint judicial activists who would decide cases based on personal ideology rather than the law.

The only way to know whether nominees have an activist judicial philosophy is to find out what their judicial philosophy is. That's the only way to know whether nominees will follow the law or attempt to rewrite it. We certainly can't tell judicial philosophy from nominees' resumes, where they went to school, or where they worked. These issues are relevant and should be considered as part of a nominee's qualifications for the Supreme Court. But a resume is no substitute for answering questions about whether the nominee respects the basic rights and freedoms on which the nation was founded.

The American people deserve to know if a nominee would favor corporate or other special interests, rather than giving everyone the same fair hearing in deciding cases. They deserve