

He has spent his entire 35 years of Senate service working in the Disbursing Office. That in itself is a commendable feat.

In 1970, Tim began his career as a payroll clerk and was promoted to payroll supervisor 6 years later. He continued to receive promotions and in 1998 became the Senate's financial clerk. Tim's career in the Disbursing Office has been stellar. You could always count on Tim and his staff for topnotch service and to accommodate Members and staff.

Tim and his wife Pat met in high school, got married, and have two children, Matthew and Lory. Matt and Lory have provided Tim and Pat with four grandchildren—two boys and two girls.

Tim plans to spend the first 6 months trying to get his sea legs, enjoying some "downtime" with his family and playing a little golf. He and Pat then plan to do some traveling. They want to go to Alaska to see what is happening there.

I salute Tim on his service to the Senate and congratulate him on a job well done. He certainly was part of the Senate family and always will be. I hope he enjoys his retirement.

IRAQ AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say this. Ambassador Negroponte came to the Senate the last time this past May. Did he talk anything about what was going on with intelligence in Iraq or what was going on in Iraq, period? No. He talked about international terrorism. It is not as if we have been bothering the Ambassador having him come here all the time.

But I am disappointed to have to report to the American people this is what is going on with this administration: You never get to what the issue is. Put it off. Do not talk about it. Stay the course.

In Iraq we have some problems: almost 2,000 dead Americans; 15,000, 16,000 wounded, many of them very badly.

I in no way say this to disparage the managers of this bill, one of whom is a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, Senator DAN INOUE; the other served valiantly in World War II as a pilot. But their job would be much easier if they had a Defense authorization bill prior to coming here to this floor with an appropriations bill. It makes their job, if not impossible, extremely difficult.

Let me explain what I am talking about. You authorize funding in the Congress, and then it goes to the all-important Appropriations Committee, and they determine what of the authorization bill deserves money. That is basically what it amounts to. There has to be some limit to spending, and that is what the Appropriation Committee's job is; to determine whether the money should be spent.

Well, here there is no authorization bill. There is legislation in the author-

ization bill that deals with retirement pay for the military, with pay raises for the military, with all kinds of programs for the veterans, the National Guard and Reserve. The Appropriations Committee does not have the benefit of that. They will be working, in effect, on last year's law.

I do not know how we could ever—I am sure it has happened sometime in the far distant past. I am sure it has happened. I hope it does not happen in the future that they try to do this jury-rigged system, where you take an appropriations bill without having done an authorization bill.

There are matters in that authorization bill dealing with prisoner abuse. A number of people want to offer amendments. They cannot offer an amendment on the appropriations bill dealing with prisoner abuse.

I see my friend, the Senator from South Carolina, in the Chamber, the mover of the legislation to have a look at what has gone on in Abu Ghraib and other prison facilities the military has. I think the author of the bill, Senator MCCAIN from Arizona, may have a little bit of expertise on prisoner of war abuse. I think he may have a little bit of authenticity when he comes before the Senate and says he wants to take a look at that.

JOHN MCCAIN spent years of his life in a prison camp in Vietnam, not days, weeks, months but years—try 5½ years—most of it in solitary confinement. So he wants to offer an amendment. He cannot do it unless he gets unanimous consent that he can have a vote on it. He can offer it, but it falls similar to everything else. But I will bet he is going to get unanimous consent because we want him to be able to debate this issue. Who has more standing than the Senator from Arizona to raise this as an issue?

Mr. President, we—I repeat—had a scheduled briefing at 3 o'clock today to find out what is going on in Iraq dealing with intelligence. We have never, ever had a briefing by Negroponte since he has assumed his duties as head of the so-called DNI on April 21 of this year. We have not been briefed by him on Iraq since he assumed his position. So I do not think we are being greedy taking an hour of his time.

Ducking debates about our national defense has become too topical and typical in this country because we are unable to bring matters before this floor. No amendments, no votes, no debates—that is not the way to do a bill in the Senate.

Why didn't we finish the Defense authorization bill the first time? Because we went to gun liability. So this process is unacceptable. We are a nation at war. We have troops in Iraq, in Afghanistan. We have an opportunity to have an open, honest debate about our national defense.

Our troops and the American people deserve better, and that is not what we are having here. And the distinguished majority leader said he was offended

because I asked for a briefing by the Intelligence Director of this country. Offended? I am sorry he is offended.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2863, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Bayh amendment No. 1933, to increase by \$360,800,000 amounts appropriated by title IX for Other Procurement, Army, for the procurement of armored Tactical Wheeled Vehicles for units deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to increase by \$5,000,000 amounts appropriated by title IX for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide, for industrial preparedness for the implementation of a ballistics engineering research center.

McCain amendment No. 1978, to prohibit the use of funds to pay salaries and expenses and other costs associated with reimbursing the Government of Uzbekistan for services rendered to the United States at Karshi-Khanabad airbase in Uzbekistan.

Reed/Hagel amendment No. 1943, to transfer certain amounts from the supplemental authorizations of appropriations for Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terrorism to amounts for Operation and Maintenance, Army, Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps, Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide activities, and Military Personnel in order to provide for increased personnel strengths for the Army and the Marine Corps for fiscal year 2006.

Warner/Levin modified amendment No. 1955, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1977

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, from my conversations with the Senator from Alaska, the chairman, I believe he agrees we will move forward; therefore, I call up amendment No. 1977, which is filed at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the pending amendments are set aside for the consideration of this amendment, which the clerk will now report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN], for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. COLLINS, proposes an amendment numbered 1977.