

suggestions of the Senator from Vermont, 50,000 American lives might have been spared. By the end of the Vietnam war, almost 3,000 Illinoisans had given their lives in Vietnam. Some were my buddies in high school, my friends with whom I had grown up. I still remember to this day and wonder, if the Senate at that moment in time had made the right decision, a decision Senator Aiken had called for, whether they might be alive today. That is the reality of war, and it is the reality of these foreign policy decisions.

ETHICS REFORM

Our business before the Senate now is the Senate ethics reform bill. We have a big task ahead of us. The leadership has made it clear to Senators on both sides of the aisle that we are going to finish this bill this week. It could mean long sessions, as Senator REID said earlier today. It could mean we are in late in the night, perhaps even on the weekend, but we want to get this important part of our business behind us. The culture of corruption, the climate of corruption which has been on Capitol Hill over the last several years has to come to an end.

There will always be Members of the House and Senate who can think of another way to improve the way we do business. Each of us has our own ideas. I was fortunate, as I said before on the floor of the Senate, to start my Senate and public career with two extraordinary men, Senators Paul Douglas and Paul Simon of Illinois, who tried to set new standards of ethical conduct in national service. Back when I was fresh out of law school and penniless, I went to work for Lieutenant Governor Paul Simon, who insisted that every member of his staff make a complete income disclosure every year and a complete net worth disclosure.

My first disclosure brought real embarrassment to me and my wife because we had nothing and with student debts would have qualified for bankruptcy under most circumstances. We didn't file bankruptcy, but those annual disclosures were embarrassing until we finally passed a point where we had a few meager possessions and were on the positive side of the ledger.

I have continued to do that every year. I make the most detailed disclosure I can in my financial statement, not categories of wealth or income but actual dollar amounts. I have done it every single year. I know it serves up to my critics a ready menu of things on which to attack me. That's OK. I want to make it clear that in the time I have been in public service, the decisions I have made—good, bad, whether you agree with them or not—have not been driven by any desire to come away from this experience wealthy.

I have not imposed that on my colleagues here, or suggested it by way of amendment, that they do a detailed income disclosure, put their income tax returns with that disclosure, and a net worth statement each year. But I feel comfortable doing it. I am glad I got

started. Now that my family is beyond the embarrassment of those early disclosures when we had nothing, they have come to accept it every year as just a routine. It is a small thing, but it is voluntary on my part, and I hope that others, if they see the need, will accept voluntary changes in the way they approach this to demonstrate their commitment to ethics in public service.

The amendment before us by Senator REID, Senator HARRY REID, our majority leader, is one that deals with the use of corporate airplanes. That has been a source of some embarrassment and question before. I believe that Senators REID and MCCONNELL have shown real leadership in moving this amendment forward. We will consider some changes to it during the course of our debate but, once again, it is a step in the right direction.

Finishing this, we will move to the minimum wage bill and then to a debate on Iraq and then probably to the stem cell issue, so we have quite an agenda before us. Our friends in the House are benefited by something known as the House Rules Committee, which can expedite the process. The Senate doesn't work that way. We have a unanimous consent process which is slow, ponderous, deliberate, and, for Members of the House, absolutely maddening. It will take us longer.

At the end of the day, though, I hope we end up with a good work product for the American people.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 3, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid modified amendment No. 4 (to amendment No. 3), to strengthen the gift and travel bans.

DeMint amendment No. 12 (to amendment No. 3), to clarify that earmarks added to a conference report that are not considered by the Senate or the House of Representatives are out of scope.

DeMint amendment No. 14 (to amendment No. 3), to protect individuals from having their money involuntarily collected and used for lobbying by a labor organization.

Vitter/Inhofe further modified amendment No. 9 (to amendment No. 3), to prohibit Members from having official contact with any spouse of a Member who is a registered lobbyist.

Leahy/Pryor amendment No. 2 (to amendment No. 3), to give investigators and prosecutors the tools they need to combat public corruption.

Gregg amendment No. 17 (to amendment No. 3), to establish a legislative line item veto.

Ensign amendment No. 24 (to amendment No. 3), to provide for better transparency and enhanced congressional oversight of spending by clarifying the treatment of matter not committed to the conferees by either House.

Ensign modified amendment No. 25 (to amendment No. 3), to ensure full funding for the Department of Defense within the regular appropriations process, to limit the reliance of the Department of Defense on supplemental appropriations bills, and to improve the integrity of the congressional budget process.

Cornyn amendment No. 26 (to amendment No. 3), to require full separate disclosure of any earmarks in any bill, joint resolution, report, conference report or statement of managers.

Cornyn amendment No. 27 (to amendment No. 3), to require 3 calendar days' notice in the Senate before proceeding to any matter.

Bennett (for McCain) amendment No. 28 (to amendment No. 3), to provide congressional transparency.

Bennett (for McCain) amendment No. 29 (to amendment No. 3), to provide congressional transparency.

Lieberman amendment No. 30 (to amendment No. 3), to establish a Senate Office of Public Integrity.

Bennett/McConnell amendment No. 20 (to amendment No. 3), to strike a provision relating to paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying.

Thune amendment No. 37 (to amendment No. 3), to require any recipient of a Federal award to disclose all lobbying and political advocacy.

Feinstein/Rockefeller amendment No. 42 (to amendment No. 3), to prohibit an earmark from being included in the classified portion of a report accompanying a measure unless the measure includes a general program description, funding level, and the name of the sponsor of that earmark.

Feingold amendment No. 31 (to amendment No. 3), to prohibit former Members of Congress from engaging in lobbying activities in addition to lobbying contacts during their cooling off period.

Feingold amendment No. 33 (to amendment No. 3), to prohibit former Members who are lobbyists from using gym and parking privileges made available to Members and former Members.

Feingold amendment No. 34 (to amendment No. 3), to require Senate campaigns to file their FEC reports electronically.

Durbin amendment No. 36 (to amendment No. 3), to require that amendments and motions to recommit with instructions be copied and provided by the clerk to the desks of the majority leader and the minority leader before being debated.

Cornyn amendment No. 45 (to amendment No. 3), to require 72-hour public availability of legislative matters before consideration.

Cornyn amendment No. 46 (to amendment No. 2), to deter public corruption.

Bond (for Coburn) amendment No. 48 (to amendment No. 3), to require all recipients