

Whereas, on January 6, 2007, Army Brigadier General Anthony J. Tata stated that the shortage of troops in Afghanistan could create a "strategic high risk, a strategic threat" to the United States and "an operational threat" to the elected government of Hamid Karzai;

Whereas, on January 15, 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates stated that there were "indications that the Taliban were planning a large spring offensive" against United States troops and NATO forces;

Whereas, on January 16, 2007, Lieutenant General Karl Eikenberry, the senior United States commander in Afghanistan, asked to extend the deployment of a United States battalion in Afghanistan that was scheduled to be redeployed to Iraq;

Whereas, on January 17, 2007, General David Richards stated that unmet pledges of troops and equipment from NATO countries have left him 10 to 15 percent short of the forces he requires, saying, "Clearly, there is a need to fulfill those commitments.";

Whereas, on January 17, 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates stated that United States military commanders in Afghanistan have requested additional United States troops for Afghanistan, and stated that he was "sympathetic" to this request;

Whereas the United States currently has approximately 21,000 troops in Afghanistan, approximately 1/7 of the number of United States troops currently deployed to Iraq;

Whereas the President of the United States has announced plans to send approximately 21,500 additional United States troops to Iraq; and

Whereas if the United States does not strengthen efforts to defeat the Taliban and to create long-term stability in Afghanistan, Afghanistan will become what it was before the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, a haven for those who seek to harm the United States and a source of instability that threatens the security of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States must strengthen its commitment to establishing long-term stability and peace in Afghanistan;

(2) the President should not reduce the total number of United States troops serving in Afghanistan in order to increase the total number of United States troops serving in Iraq;

(3) the United States, in partnership with the International Security Assistance Force and the Government of Afghanistan, should immediately increase its efforts to eradicate the Taliban, terrorist organizations, and criminal networks currently operating in Afghanistan, including by increasing United States military personnel as requested by United States military commanders in Afghanistan;

(4) the United States, in support of the Government of Afghanistan, should significantly increase the amount of economic assistance available in Afghanistan for reconstruction, social and economic development, counternarcotics efforts, and democracy promotion activities; and

(5) the United States should work aggressively to encourage members of the international community to deliver on the financial pledges they have made to support development and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 98. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, and Mr. DEMINT)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3

proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. DURBIN) to the bill S. 1, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

SA 99. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. BENNETT) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. DURBIN) to the bill S. 1, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 98. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, and Mr. DEMINT)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. DURBIN) to the bill S. 1, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process; as follows:

Strike page 3, line 9 through page 4, line 12 and insert the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A point of order may be made by any Senator against any item contained in a conference report that includes or consists of any matter not committed to the conferees by either House.

(1) For the purpose of this section "matter not committed to the conferees by either House" shall include any item which consists of a specific provision containing a specific level of funding for any specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity, when no such specific funding was provided for such specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity in the measure originally committed to the conferees by either House.

(2) For the purpose of Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate "matter not committed" shall include any item which consists of a specific provision containing a specific level of funding for any specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity, when no such specific funding was provided for such specific account, specific program, specific project, or specific activity in the measure originally committed to the conferees by either House.

The point of order may be made and disposed of separately for each item in violation of this section.

(b) DISPOSITION.—If the point of order raised against an item in a conference report under subsection (a) is sustained, then—

(1) the matter in such conference report shall be stricken;

(2) when all other points of order under this section have been disposed of—

(A) the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate should recede from its amendment to the House bill, or its disagreement to the amendment of the House, and concur with a further amendment, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report that has not been stricken (any modification of total amounts appropriated necessary to reflect the deletion of the matter struck from the conference report shall be made).

SA 99. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. BENNETT) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. DURBIN) to the bill S.

1, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 16 through 19.

On page 13, lines 1 and 2, strike "The Select Committee on Ethics and"

On page 15, strike beginning with line 22 through page 16, line 21, and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 207(j)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended, by—

(1) striking "The restrictions" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The restrictions"; and

(2) adding at the end the following:

"(B) INDIAN TRIBES.—The restrictions contained in this section shall not apply to acts done pursuant to section 104 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450i)."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(j) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450i(j)) is amended by striking "and former officers and employees of the United States employed by Indian tribes may act as agents or attorneys for or" and inserting "or former officers and employees of the United States who are carrying out official duties as employees or as elected or appointed officials of an Indian tribe may communicate with and"

On page 24, strike lines 11 through 20 and insert the following:

(A) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: "Not later than 20 days after the end of the quarterly period beginning on the 1st day of January, April, July, and October of each year, or on the first business day after the 20th day if that day is not a business day, in which a registrant is registered with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, a registrant shall file a report or reports, as applicable, on its lobbying activities during such quarterly period."; and

On page 27, strike line 12 through "day," on line 15 and insert "Not later than 20 days after the end of the end of the quarterly period beginning on the 1st day of January, April, July, and October of each year, or on the first business day after the 20th day if that day is not a business day.".

On page 46, lines 12 and 13, strike "oversight and enforcement" and insert "administration".

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the President's Proposed Budget for FY 2008 for the Department of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.