

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Reid (for Baucus) substitute amendment No. 100 to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 2, providing for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

Ted Kennedy, Barbara A. Mikulski, Daniel K. Inouye, Byron L. Dorgan, Jeff Bingaman, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jack Reed, Barbara Boxer, Daniel K. Akaka, Max Baucus, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Tom Harkin, Robert Menendez, Tom Carper, Harry Reid, Charles E. Schumer, Richard Durbin.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on Calendar No. 5, H.R. 2, as amended, providing for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

Ted Kennedy, Barbara A. Mikulski, Daniel K. Inouye, Byron L. Dorgan, Jeff Bingaman, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jack Reed, Barbara Boxer, Daniel K. Akaka, Max Baucus, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Tom Harkin, Robert Menendez, Tom Carper, Harry Reid, Charles E. Schumer, Richard Durbin.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have other business to conduct on another matter. It is my understanding the distinguished Republican leader wishes to speak at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 210

Mr. MCCONNELL. I call for the regular order with respect to the Kyl amendment No. 210.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That amendment is pending.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask the amendment be divided as indicated by the copy at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment will be divided.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Republican majority in the previous Congress was prepared to raise the minimum wage. In fact, the House of Representatives passed an increase in the minimum wage and the Senate tried to pass an increase in the minimum wage. The difficulty was that Democrats ended up blocking passage because they did not like the fact that the minimum wage was attached to other provisions last year. The minimum wage was attached to some very significant provisions—tax extenders, modification of the death tax—and our

good friends on the other side didn't like the way it was packaged and therefore prevented its passage.

The last time the minimum wage passed, back in 1996, and President Clinton signed it, he praised the minimum wage, particularly because it was packaged with tax relief and regulatory relief for small businesses. So it has been the practice of the Congress, under both Republicans and Democrats, for a minimum wage to be passed in conjunction with other matters. In fact, my good friend, the majority leader, has advocated that and supported the package that came out of the Finance Committee, even though every Member on the other side of the aisle voted, in effect—by voting to invoke cloture—voted in effect for a clean minimum wage yesterday.

With regard to how much time we have taken on this bill, we didn't have any votes last Monday, and we are not having any votes today on minimum wage, even though we did vote to confirm General Petraeus, which we certainly should have done. We have not had that much time on the bill.

I think my good friends on the other side of the aisle are having a hard time adjusting to being in the majority in the Senate. The price you pay for being in the majority in the Senate is, in order to complete bills, the minority gets votes. I remember my good friend and colleague, the Democratic whip, saying the Senate is not the House. Our new occupant of the chair, in his first couple of weeks in the Senate, is learning already that the Senate is not the House.

In the Senate, virtually every bill has numerous amendments. The majorities are always frustrated because minorities get their votes before moving to final passage. I have said to my friend the majority leader on several occasions over the last few hours that I was hoping that we could have some more amendments on this minimum wage bill before moving to its inevitable conclusion. It will end up similar to the ethics bill last year, passing with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. But there are still some other important amendments that our side would like to offer, and we will be discussing those amendments and how our Members feel about that in the next few days.

At some point in the not too distant future, an increase in the minimum wage, in conjunction with tax relief for small business, will pass the Senate on a very large bipartisan basis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. CARDIN). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we all have memories. My memory is that during the time that Senator LOTT was the majority leader we had very few opportunities to amend bills because he, in the vernacular in the Senate, filled the tree and there weren't opportunities to do that. Senator Frist did not do that

nearly as much as Senator LOTT when he was the leader, but certainly it was done a lot of times. We have chosen not to do that. We have chosen the amendment process. That is why I said earlier today: When is enough enough?

I have sent the cloture motions to the desk, and we will make that decision at noon on Tuesday.

While the distinguished Republican leader is on the floor, I will say a few more words on another subject.

The Republican leader and I have talked on several occasions about this Iraq situation. Anyone who reads the newspaper, listens to the radio or watches TV—we all know there are a number of resolutions around the Senate dealing with the escalation of the war in Iraq. The leader and I have talked about them.

We have pending in the Senate now, S. Con. Res. 2, which is a bipartisan resolution. Upon disposition of the minimum wage bill—and I have spoken to the leader, Senator MCCONNELL—he is unable to clear consent to move S. Con. Res. 2 now. Members may not be available to clear it at the moment, and I understand that, so I am not going to put any unanimous consent request before the Senate because the distinguished Republican Senate leader has told me he is not able to do that. But in an effort to save time, I intend to move to proceed to the concurrent resolution today and file cloture on that motion. If on Monday the Republican leader is still not able to grant consent to proceed to it, we will be in a position, then, to look forward to the Tuesday vote. If he is able to give me consent to move forward to that, then we can vitiate the cloture motion.

Mr. President, I will be filing that motion on cloture today to proceed to a bipartisan resolution reported out by the Foreign Relations Committee earlier this week. We are moving forward to demand a new direction in Iraq, as we have spoken about a number of times. Senator LAUTENBERG finished a speech on that today. We hope Republican leadership will join with us to fully debate this issue, permit votes on amendments, and ensure an up-or-down vote on the President's plan. Our troops and the American people deserve no less.

BIPARTISAN CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON IRAQ—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at this time, I move to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 2. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 12, S. Con. Res. 2, a bipartisan concurrent resolution on Iraq.

Harry Reid, Patty Murray, Herb Kohl, Jeff Bingaman, Benjamin L. Cardin, Frank R. Lautenberg, Chuck Schumer, Dick Durbin, Christopher Dodd, Bernard Sanders, Jack Reed, Joe Biden, Chuck Hagel, Robert Menendez, Olympia J. Snowe, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have filed this bipartisan cloture motion. Because of that, I withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in terms of the process by which we go forward next week to discuss the Iraq situation, as the majority leader indicated, we have been in discussions over the last couple of days about how that might go forward. We are still in the process of consulting with our Members. I have indicated to the majority leader that there is likely to be one or more additional resolutions offered by this side, and as we begin the week, I will have a clearer picture of just how many that might be, and then we can begin to sit down and structure the process by which those will be considered in the Senate. I look forward to working with the majority leader next week in that regard.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FIRST LIEUTENANT JACOB N. FRITZ

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Army 1LT Jacob N. Fritz of Verdon, NE.

Lieutenant Fritz graduated from Dawson-Verdon High School in 2000. His peers and teachers recognized him as a natural leader. He was active in every extracurricular activity his school offered: speech, drama, basketball, football, track, and band. He organized drug-free parties and dances.

After high school, Lieutenant Fritz followed his dream of serving in the Armed Forces by enrolling in the Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 2005. His younger brother, Daniel, followed in his footsteps and is currently a third-year cadet at West Point.

Lieutenant Fritz had been serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, assigned to A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, based in Fort Richardson, AK. On Saturday, January 20, 2007, Lieutenant Fritz

passed away when his dismounted patrol received indirect fire followed by small arms fire in Karbala, Iraq. He was 25 years old.

1LT Jacob Fritz is survived by his parents, Lyle and Noala Fritz of Verdon, NE, and his two younger brothers, Daniel and Ethan. I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Lieutenant Fritz. He made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice for our Nation. I join all Americans in grieving the loss of this remarkable young man and know that Lieutenant Fritz's passion for serving, his leadership, and his selflessness will remain a source of inspiration for us all.

SERGEANT MAJOR MARILYN GABBARD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor SMA Marilyn Gabbard of the Iowa Army National Guard. The first woman ever promoted to the rank of Command Sergeant Major in the Iowa Army National Guard, Sergeant Major Gabbard was deployed to Iraq on December 16, 2006, and died in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crash on January 20, 2007, at 2:45 pm local Iraq time. Her colleagues said of her that she was a role model for other women in the Iowa National Guard, and her rise through the enlisted ranks was inspirational. She is remembered as a respected soldier and caring leader who always put her soldiers first. Her military decorations include three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal. My prayers go out to Marilyn's husband Edward and her seven children and stepchildren, her mother Mary Van Cannon, as well as her grandchildren and all her family and friends. SMA Marilyn Gabbard will be greatly missed. She leaves behind her a legacy of military achievement, immense compassion, and patriotic service. I hope that those who have been touched by her loss will find some comfort in the knowledge that her memory will live on like those countless other heroes throughout American history who have given their lives for our country.

SERGEANT TOMMY RIEMAN

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to Army SGT Tommy Rieman, a native of Independence, KY, who received the military Silver Star for exceptional courage. He exhibited this courage when insurgents attacked his reconnaissance squad near the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq on December 3, 2003. His selfless act of bravery and unwillingness to fail exemplify the true definition of a soldier.

Sergeant Rieman grew up in Independence, a small town in northern Kentucky. While at Simon Kenton High School, he was captain of the football team and was a member of the wrestling team, before he graduated in 1999. Sergeant Rieman was a teenager, pumping gas at a local gas station when he decided to enlist in the Army. This monumental decision he made to begin his exceptional military career would go on to shape his destiny.

While serving in Iraq, Sergeant Rieman showcased immense calm

under pressure, when his squad came under attack by insurgents. With the convoy under heavy fire from rocket-propelled grenades and explosive devices, he used his own body as a shield to protect his squad gunner and returned fire to the enemy. The humvees that the squad was traveling in did not have any doors, so as a result Sergeant Rieman suffered two bullet wounds and multiple shrapnel injuries. Despite these injuries, he was still able to direct the convoy off the road and away from the live fire combat, only to be attacked by another smaller group of insurgents. Sergeant Rieman commanded and led his squad to return fire, and the enemy's weapons were silenced. At this point, the situation was calm and he was able to call a medical helicopter to treat the injuries of these brave soldiers.

After returning from Iraq, in August 2004 Sergeant Rieman was awarded a Silver Star for his brave actions that day in Fort Bragg, NC. He is now employed as an administrative assistant for the Army personnel office in the Pentagon. In May 2006, he was selected to be a participant in the "America's Army: Real Heroes" video game program, which recounts the lives of military soldiers who have shown heroism and bravery in the war on terror. Sergeant Rieman will have his military history and motivational story told through this game, with the hope of inspiring others to greatness.

On January 23, 2007, Sergeant Rieman was a guest of the First Lady and was formally recognized by President Bush, who discussed his bravery in the annual State of the Union Address to Congress. He stated that Sergeant Rieman, like so many other Americans who have volunteered to defend us, had earned the respect of the Nation. I cannot agree with this statement more. It brings me great pride to see a soldier of the caliber of Sergeant Rieman represent Kentucky in such a courageous and selfless way. He is an inspirational example to me and to the entire Commonwealth.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD S. BOWEN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ronald S. Bowen, who has diligently served as the president of the Utah Dental Association, UDA. As president, Dr. Bowen has devoted his professional and leadership skills to serving Utah's 1,530 member dental organization.

The UDA is committed to the public's oral health, ethics, science, and professional development. I am proud of our dental health professionals who skillfully provide quality health care to thousands of Utahns. I am also proud of Dr. Ron Bowen, who as the president of the UDA has provided outstanding leadership among his colleagues as he represented the association on a national, state, and local level. He has extensively traveled the