

our troops have been subjected. There will be infinitely more of those examples, given the mission the President has proposed in Baghdad.

The father of the soldier told me: My son's first interpreter was a spy. Those are the kinds of precarious and dangerous circumstances under which our soldiers are facing extraordinary challenges. Now they are being requested to go door-to-door in Baghdad, as this soldier was doing in Baquba. His father said they were going door to door, clearing them out, only to find they were coming back in. That is the circumstance our troops will face in this very dangerous mission in Baghdad.

While we are on recess, all of this will be underway. Yet we have no plan to debate and to vote on our respective views and positions on this question.

This is not in keeping and consistent with the traditions and practices of the Senate. I have served in both the House of Representatives and the Senate for 29 years. I have witnessed and been part of debates that range from Lebanon to the Persian Gulf to Somalia to Bosnia to Panama. We were able to exercise our views, whether we were in the House of Representatives or in the Senate. I am deeply disappointed that we are at this juncture, that we are planning to adjourn for a previously scheduled recess without having established a record on behalf of the Senate for the people of this country. We are their voice. We reflect their will. We should have the opportunity to debate and to vote on the various questions.

The fact is, we have allowed the gears of this deliberative process to become jammed with the monkey wrenches of timidity and partisanship. I reject that because at a time in which the American people are deeply concerned about the direction of our mission in Iraq, the Senate is deadlocked and stalemated.

That is why I object to the motion to adjourn. I hope my colleagues will express their objections, likewise, irrespective of where Members stand on the question. I hope Members express disappointment and disapproval that we will recess without having taken a stand on this monumental issue.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

IRAQ DEBATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will use leader time.

Mr. President, I have the deepest respect for the Senator from Maine. I care about her a lot. She is a good legislator and a very strong woman, strong person, someone who stands up for what she thinks is right. I admire her for that.

However, those are interesting comments that I have just heard from my

friend regarding an Iraq debate. While I respect the Senator from Maine and, as I have said I appreciate her sense of urgency, I say with all due respect, she is coming late to the party.

Last week, when Senators had the opportunity to hold an important debate about Iraq, she and others chose to prevent that debate. Some of them, including my friend from Maine, voted against their own resolution by not invoking cloture. While it is heartening to know that they would like to have an Iraq debate now, where were they last week? Where were they when the Senate was trying to send a message to President Bush to stop the escalation? Where were they when we were trying to send a message in standing up for our troops in Iraq? The answer: Obstructing. Playing politics.

Don't tell me about politics. They were putting the political needs of the White House ahead of our troops' need for a new direction in Iraq.

If not for the actions that took place last week, we could have been finished with this debate regarding the escalation in Iraq. We could have already sent a strong message to President Bush that he stands alone in supporting escalation. We could have joined the House in expressing our support for the troops and our opposition to the so-called surge. But because there was a political game being played with the war, the American people still do not know where their Senators stand on escalation.

I take it from comments I have heard—not only from the Senator from Maine but from others on the other side of the aisle—that a number of Members had a change of heart; that, in the future, I would hope, many of them will be joining us in an important Iraq debate.

Everyone within the sound of my voice should understand, we are in the Senate. Procedurally it is very difficult, many times, to get from here to there. I started as quickly as I could to process this matter. On Tuesday, I moved to rule XIV so we could have the House resolution before the Senate. I would hope we will have that opportunity soon.

This week, the House of Representatives is debating a bipartisan resolution on escalation. Last night, as I have indicated, I started the process—again, moving one step further to bringing the legislation closer to the floor of the Senate, a resolution saying we support our troops and we oppose the escalation.

When the Senate returns after the break, we will deal with the House resolution in some manner. The American people deserve, as I have said, to know where every Member of the Senate stands on the so-called surge. It is an important issue facing our country.

I repeat what I said about the Senator from Maine. I care about her a lot. But I really am somewhat lost in the logic of her debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ISSUE OF FAIRNESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, using some of my leader time, let me respond briefly to my good friend, the majority leader.

The Senate Republicans are fully prepared to have a debate on the Iraq war. We were prepared to have a debate on the Iraq war last week. We anticipated it. The issue is whether the Senate will operate like the House. It will not.

In the House, they have one Iraq resolution. The minority gets no voice at all, up or down, on one proposal. As my good friend, the majority leader, and certainly the majority whip said repeatedly over the years, the Senate is not the House. Senate Republicans are anxious to have the Iraq debate. We are not trying to avoid it in any way, whatever. But there will be, at the very least, a proposal that a majority of Senate Republicans support in the queue to be considered so that we will have an alternative.

Now, the majority leader and I have had a number of discussions about this issue over the week. I am still hopeful we can work this out and have a process for going forward that is fair to Senate Republicans. However, I am very confident that Senate Republicans will insist on having at least one alternative favored by a majority of our Members. Again, I am not anticipating that we will end up in the same position we were last week. The majority leader and I are continuing to talk about it.

But fundamental fairness is essential on the most important issue confronting the country.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, we have two votes scheduled at 10:30. We were supposed to have 15 minutes reserved for Senator LEAHY and myself, and I know Senator HAGEL is in the Senate and wants a little time.

With the majority leader in attendance, I wonder if we might adjust the timing so we can talk about these judges at least for a few minutes?

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, the question is an excellent question. We have, as the Senator knows, a funeral taking place today for Dr. Norwood. We changed the vote around from 11 o'clock until 10:30 today so a large contingent of Senators and House Members can attend the funeral. If we do not start the votes at 10:30, they will not be able to attend.

Mr. SPECTER. I accept that. May I use the last 4 minutes to speak?

I will yield to the Senator from Nebraska for a minute.

Mr. HAGEL. I appreciate that.