The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRAGEDY AT VIRGINIA TECH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I join so many of my colleagues today to rise in sadness and horror at what happened in Virginia at Virginia Tech. To see the picture of one of the young women, who was allegedly slain, go on the TV screen and see her young beautiful face and realize her life has been taken and thinking of her family and then magnifying this at least 30 times, it is almost too much to bear. This is a terrible tragedy for all of us.

We pray and mourn for those who were lost. At times such as this, the only solace one can take is that God works in ways we don’t understand. But I wish to add my condolences to those families who lost loved ones, pray for the recovery of those who were injured, and to all the people of the Virginia Tech community, our hearts go out to you on this sad day.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—Continued

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to oppose cloture on the Intelligence authorization. There are plenty of things wrong with this bill, but our primary objection, once again, is the way it is being handled on the floor.

The Democratic majority has filed 21 cloture motions so far this session. At rates such as this, the only solace one can take is that God works in ways we don’t understand. But I wish to add my condolences to those families who lost loved ones, pray for the recovery of those who were injured, and to all the people of the Virginia Tech community, our hearts go out to you on this sad day.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INTENTIONAL MURDER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 20, S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization bill of 2007.

Harry Reid, Chuck Schumer, Russell D. Feingold, Jay Rockefeller, Evan Bayh, Patty Murray, Dick Durbin, Jeff Bingaman, Robert Menendez, B.A. Mikulski, Dianne Feinstein, Bill Nelson, E. Benjamin Nelson, S. Whitehouse, Byron L. Dorgan, Blanche L. Lincoln, Ron Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 372, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LANTENBERG), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) would each vote "yea."
But this act of cynicism, this act for the third year in a row, blocking intelligence legislation is beyond me. We all understand nothing can happen in military action without intelligence leading the way in; to scout out the territory, to get the feeling, to get through language with all the units, to get the feeling of what is going on so we know what we are getting into.

I will not get into the importance of intelligence for Iraq or Afghanistan, but this is a real crasser. I am not shocked because of any intelligence. I am more fired up than ever on intelligence. I am shocked because something like this happens in the United States Senate for any reason at any time. I have been in this body for 24 years.

I have been in this body for 24 years, and on one occasion a majority leader called me at home—I happened to be shaving, and it was not a convenient phone call—and asked me to vote some way. I was not surprised. That was not going to happen. That had never happened since then. Not once have I been instructed by my party or by my minority or majority leader to vote a certain way.

Yet when it comes to national security, to funding intelligence agencies, where we change the authorities, where we spent weeks in trying to work out hard problems, and did so in the managers’ amendment, with more amendments to come, which we would have agreed to, to alleviate the White House’s concern—the White House decided they do not like oversight. Well, I understand that. When I was a Governor, I did not like oversight. Nobody likes oversight. Nobody likes oversight, but it is our constitutional responsibility. We do not have that choice. We have that duty.

One of the great things about the Intelligence Committee is that it has come together in a bipartisan manner. We have work to do, but he has dedicated himself to keep up with everything else he has to do, but he has dedicated himself to this. I know how much this bill means to him.

This reauthorization bill for the intelligence agencies is critically important to him personally, but, more importantly, it really means so much for our Nation. If our intelligence does not get it right, we are more vulnerable. If we are more vulnerable, it means that our troops in the field are more vulnerable. So he has worked overtime to bring this intelligence authorization bill to the floor in a spirit of bipartisanship, as he described.

This amendment, which was just stopped by this procedural motion, is a bipartisan amendment. It is from both the chairman of the committee, Senator ROCKEFELLER, and the vice chairman of the committee, Senator BOND—Democrat and Republican. I believe him when he says he has worked in a spirit of compromise to try to find a reasonable position.

Now, when we offer this amendment, this substitute amendment, to the Senate, and say, if you have something you want to offer to improve it—Senator REID said that earlier—I cannot think of a fairer way to approach an issue, which should not be political at all.

One amendment was offered. It is my understanding only one amendment was offered. It looked like we were finally going to get this reauthorization of intelligence agencies that are so important for our security. Along comes this procedural vote, which should have been a toss-up vote. It ends up virtually stopping the debate on this critical bill. Why? I cannot understand it.

We have said: Offer your amendments, and only one amendment was offered. Senator ROCKEFELLER has worked with the Republican side of the aisle for a bipartisan approach. You have given; the other side has given. It
was a good spirit of compromise, cooperation. That is what people want. Certainly, when it comes to the security of our Nation, you do not expect us to come in as Democrats and Republicans. We have a lot more responsibility.

So what happened now? When we tried to bring this to a point where it could pass, where the amendments would be limited to the most germane amendments that really get to the heart of the issue, the other side of the aisle raised no, and now we are stuck.

They knew what they were doing. They were trying to kill this bill. But why would they want to stop this bill? This is a good bipartisan bill essential for the security of America that had been arrived at in a bipartisan manner, and they stopped it. I do not understand that.

I salute Senator Rockefeller for his leadership. I understand his frustration. Certainly, the people who depend on us—those of us, in a bipartisan fashion, to keep America safe were let down by this vote where the overwhelming majority of Republican Senators voted no.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Sanders). The majority leader.

Mr. Reid. Mr. President, I came here earlier today anticipating there would be Republicans who could rise above the partisan fray. I looked at the vote was being cast: no, no, no, at the people I thought could do this.

Sixteen agencies are all responsible for gathering intelligence information for our country.

Mr. President, let's call it the way it is. Vice President Cheney runs the intelligence operations of this administration. He has for 6 years. It apparently is not going to stop. We could not even improve the intelligence-gathering in the executive branch does not want. I believe his frustration is dilatory action, if there is any sense—that there is dilatory action, if there is any sense—that we are not moving quickly on this bill in very short order, I would join with him and urge my Republican colleagues to do so to move this bill forward. This bill is one that has to pass on at least a couple of days. Is that too much to ask, that we work on it a couple of days?

I know the leader has entered a motion to reconsider. And if there is any sense—that there is dilatory action, if there is any sense—that we are not moving quickly on this bill in very short order, I would Join with him and urge my Republican colleagues to do so to move this bill forward. This bill is one that has to pass if we are to get our legitimate congressional oversight.

I am not going to get into the arguments between the leaders on how many times we have invoked cloture. But this is the Chair, and work with them to get a good Intelligence authorization bill through.

The inscription that we got an order from the White House that— absolutely without basis. They are working with us in a cooperative way, and I hope to move forward on this bill, which is now open for amending and debate. I look forward to the opportunity to proceed with that debate and to the bill. I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. Reid. Mr. President, I have the greatest respect for the senior Senator from Missouri, but his facts are all messed up. We tried to bring this bill to the floor for a full debate. In the Senate, as everyone knows, you have to move to proceed to the bill. We did that. They objected. We had to file cloture on even being able to get debate to the bill. They initially said: We are not going to give you cloture. Then they gave us cloture. The purpose of that was to stall for time. They voted to proceed. I said immediately: Why waste the 30 hours while the Senate is you have 30 hours after you complete the cloture. I said: Offer amendments during this period of time. Don't waste the time. We could have done that last week. I told everybody. All of our staff knew of the nothing. I indicated we would be happy to do relevant amendments on this bill.

I ask unanimous consent now that there be four relevant amendments in order for each side and that when they are disposed of, the Senate move to final passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. Bond. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I apologize.

Mr. Reid. I will repeat the request. I ask unanimous consent that there be four relevant amendments in order for each side and that when they are disposed of, the Senate move to final passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. Bond. Reserving the right to object, we have 35 amendments. There are 10 amendments which I believe have the support of the chairman and the vice chairman. I will be happy to work tomorrow with the leaders, with the chairman, to develop a list of amendments and get a time agreement. But
the whole purpose was to move this bill forward and find out what amendments are coming from both sides. I don’t know about amendments from people who are not here.

I object to that proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say, it is a funny way of wanting to move forward on this bill by stopping cloture twice during the last 30 hours. I repeat, I said anybody who wanted to could offer amendments. We sat for 2 days doing nothing, for 30 hours doing nothing.

I hope the distinguished Senator from Missouri and my friend, my dear friend for life, the junior Senator from West Virginia, can work something out. That is why I moved to reconsider. I hope that on this very important piece of legislation, we are able to move forward. This has nothing to do with partisan politics. This is the security of our Nation and much of the world.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, as I indicated earlier, I want to see this bill move forward. It is open for amendment and debate. I will work with the chairman, with the leaders on both sides to come to a short time agreement with amendments to be considered. If that cannot be accepted, if we have any indication that this bill is going to be drawn out, then I will work with the leadership to get us to a position to vote on the bill. I remain committed to seeing this bill go forward, but I believe we have the need for at least a day’s debate. The objection to proceeding on the bill was withdrawn.

There could have been debate on Friday, but we weren’t in. Now we are back. I hope both sides can come forward and offer their amendments and offer their debates, and have votes and move this bill to final passage and send it to conference.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. We weren’t in session because there was no activity on this bill. No one was offering amendments. I would go one step further than the distinguished Senator from Missouri suggested. The amendments have been filed. Why don’t we do the relevant amendments? I don’t know how many there are. Let’s do the ones that are in keeping with the rules of the Senate, go ahead and handle those, starting in the morning.

This is all I have, Mr. President.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask leave of the Senate in the event that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID NEIL SIMMONS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Kokomo, Neil Simmons. 20 years old, was killed on April 8 while deployed in Baghdad, when his convoy encountered an improvised explosive device and insurgent fire. He had been in Iraq for less than 2 weeks. With his entire life before him, Neil risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Neil attended Kokomo’s Northwest High School and followed the example set by his father and uncle by enlisting in the Army 6 months before graduating in 2005. He enjoyed the structure of the military and felt a sense of duty to serve his community and country. His father described Neil as “an avid outdoorsman who was happy and always had plenty of friends.”

Neil was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, in Fort Benning, GA. Neil’s father reflected on his son’s death, asking, “What’s the odds of, among 160,000 troops your only child is there one week and gets killed?” Private First Class Simmons leaves behind his father David and uncle Jim Simmons.

Today, I join Neil’s family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Neil, a memory that will burn bright during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Neil was honored for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Neil will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Neil’s sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln’s remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: “We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.” This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Neil’s actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of David Neil Simmons in the official Record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Neil’s can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.”

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Neil.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity today to solemnly commemorate the 92nd Anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century. From 1915 until 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were brutally killed by the Ottoman Turks in a systematic effort to eradicate the Armenian people. There were unbearable acts of torture; men were separated from their families and murdered; women and children were put on a forced march across the Syrian desert without food or water.

Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to 1916, recalled:

When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact . . . I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no scourge as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.

However, we were to witness other such horrible genocides later, including the Holocaust and the genocide in Darfur, which is happening today.

As with later genocides, some have tried to deny that the Armenian genocide happened. Shamefully, the Government of Turkey still refuses to admit that genocide occurred.

In order for democracy and human rights to flourish, we must not support efforts to rewrite and deny history. In the United States, we strive to make human rights a fundamental component of our democracy. It is long overdue for our nation to demand that the truth be told. We must recognize the Armenian genocide in the name of democracy, fairness and human rights.

At the beginning of the 21st century, as genocide is waged in Darfur, it is