The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut, (Mr. DOOD), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 0, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 153 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Akaka—Dorgan
Alexander—Durbin
Allard—Eaton
Baucus—East
Bayh—Feingold
Bingaman—Gramm
Bond—Grassley
Boxer—Gregg
Brown—Haged
Brownback—Harkin
Bunning—Hatch
Byrd—Inhofe
Cantwell—Inouye
Cardin—Isakson
Carper—Kerry
Casey—Klobuchar
Chambliss—Kohl
Clinton—Kyl
Colburn—Landrieu
Cochrane—Lastenberg
Colesman—Leahy
Collins—Levin
Conrad—Lieberman
Corker—Lincoln
Cornyn—Lott
Craig—Lugar
Crapo—Martinez
Dadonna—McCaskill
Dole—McConnell
Domencini—Menendez

NOT VOTING—9

Bennett—Feinstein
Biden—Johnson
Dodd—Kennedy

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:36 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak on business for not to exceed 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. I yield the Chair. (The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1329 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

IRAQ

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this week we in Congress are continuing to work toward a mission—specifically that both supports our troops and changes our mission away from policing a civil war to more narrowly focusing on what should be our first and foremost goal—fighting terrorism, counterterrorism, to make sure al-Qa'ida cannot set up a camp and strike at us.

I rise today because we are beginning. We have said all along that this is going to be a long battle. Because we do not have 61 votes in the Senate, because the President has the veto power and we certainly do not have 68 votes to override a veto in the Senate, we are going to have to continue to bring up resolution and amendment until we persuade our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do what the American people want, to do what the American people asked for in November of 2006; that is, dramatically change the course in Iraq, the mission that is, dramatically change the course of the war in Iraq.

We are going to try to come up with a very strong resolution that both supports our troops and changes the mission. But we know now that we are making progress because our Republican colleagues themselves have been setting timetables, benchmarks, and other types of goals—limitations that are not terribly dissimilar from ours.

We will continue this battle, this struggle to require the President to change course in Iraq. We eagerly await our Republican colleagues joining us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from New York. I know my colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, will be here shortly as well to talk about a critical juncture at which we are now in terms of the war in Iraq.

Last week, both the House and Senate sent a very strongly worded bill to the President of the United States supporting our troops, saying we are there for them when they need us, but we also said it is time for a change of course in Iraq, that we can no longer leave our troops in the middle of a civil war. It is disappointing to all of us that the President chose that bill and sent it back to us. But I think it is very important for us to set the context of where we are now as we look at what we are going to send back to the President.

These are the facts. There is increased violence in Baghdad as we speak. There is increased violence outside Baghdad today. In fact, over 100 American soldiers died last month alone, and at least 27 more American troops have been killed this month. In my home State of Washington, we got the sad news yesterday morning that six of our Fort Lewis soldiers were killed over the weekend. These are

Mr. BOEHNER’s comments are echoed by a number of other Republicans who are hearing back in their States and districts that we must change the mission in Iraq. There are many comments.

THIS LOTT:

To think this fall we have to see some significant changes on the ground in Baghdad and other surrounding areas.

There are many more. One of those is JIM WALSH, from my home State of New York. Today, the New York Times reports that Mr. WALSH is replying to his constituents that he could soon be prepared to reassess our policy and begin withdrawing our troops.

Republican Congressman RAY LAHOOD is indicating he expects Republican members will grow increasingly “nervous” about the President’s strategy.

Asked about the President’s demand for a funding bill with no benchmarks, no conditions, and no Iraq, Senator COLLINS, who just spoke here:

Many of us on both sides of the aisle don’t see that as viable.

We are going to try to come up with a very strong resolution that both supports our troops and changes the mission. But we know now that we are making progress because our Republican colleagues themselves have been setting timetables, benchmarks, and other types of goals—limitations that are not terribly dissimilar from ours.

We will continue this battle, this struggle to require the President to change course in Iraq. We eagerly await our Republican colleagues joining us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.