

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, because there is other business we are considering because of the October 1 date hitting us, we will likely attempt to go into morning business from 2:15 until we finish the event with Senator BYRD this afternoon. But we will come back at 2:15 and deal with that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess today from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

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

RECESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:22 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, morning business is now closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

MOTION TO COMMIT

AMENDMENT NO. 3038

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to commit H.R. 1585 to the Committee on Armed Services with instructions to report back forthwith, with the following amendment numbered 3038:

The provisions of this Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3039

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3039 to the motion to commit.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "3" and insert "2".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3040 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3039

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a second-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3040 to amendment No. 3039.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "2" and insert "1".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that no further cloture motions in relation to this bill be in order for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we understand there may be the proverbial side-by-side in relation to the hate crimes matter. This means the Republicans may file their own version of hate crimes, so we will work that out. This does not apply to that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am going to ask unanimous consent that the

Senate go into morning business. The managers of the bill may come and see if they can process some amendments, but we are not going to do that right now.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I understand we are in a period for morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct, a 10-minute period during which to speak.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, sometimes the American people demand that Congress and the administration enact initiatives to address fundamental national needs. During the Depression, we enacted Social Security to see that seniors lived their later years with dignity. In the 1940s, we opened the doors to education for returning veterans through the GI bill. In the 1960s, we took action to see that seniors had quality health care, and the result was Medicare. In the 1990s, Democrats and Republicans, Congress and the administration, States and the Federal Government all worked together to help alleviate the crisis in children's health by enacting CHIP.

The success of each of these programs has echoed through the decades in the lives of millions of Americans. Today, we stand at a crossroads, faced with a choice with a path that will continue and strengthen the promise of good health and a strong start in life that CHIP brings to millions of children or whether we will turn away from that promise and curtail the help and the hope CHIP brings.

Many of the best ideas in public policy are the simplest. The Children's Health Insurance Program is based on one simple and powerful idea: that all children—all children—deserve a healthy start in life and that no parents should have to worry about whether they can afford to take their children to the doctor when they are sick.

CHIP can make the difference between a child starting life burdened with disease or a child who is healthy and ready to learn and grow. That is why CHIP has always enjoyed bipartisan support. This support goes back