

secure passage of an all-50-State resolution in support of NATO expansion for the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. These new members have brought great vigor to the NATO Alliance and are now some of our strongest allies working alongside our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan—especially Afghanistan.

As such, I was astounded last week to see the Obama administration appear to turn its back on some of our staunchest NATO allies. Last week's missile defense announcement was made with little advance notice or consultation and disregarded the great political capital expended by the leaders of Poland and the Czech Republic. This decision leaves the impression that the United States is dealing unilaterally with Russia without regard to our NATO allies. Regardless of the merits of the decision itself—and I had a chance to talk to Secretary Gates about it, and it makes sense that this was a good decision—the manner in which it was revealed to Warsaw and Prague was a major public relations and public diplomacy blunder.

The Polish people are up in arms about the decision—and not so much with the decision, but the way it was handled and the disregard for handling it in a proper fashion. The fact also that the decision was announced on September 17, 2009, the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland, makes it even worse. The way this decision was communicated shabbily to Poland and the Czech Republic should also send a shiver down the spines of our brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe and their Baltic neighbors, who are concerned with Russia's aggressive efforts to reassert its influence in what was once the Soviet Union.

In an opinion piece in last Friday's edition of the Washington Post, David J. Kramer, of the German Marshall Fund, notes that:

Whatever the official explanation now for not moving forward, many—including the Kremlin—will read this shift as an effort to placate Moscow. Announcing the decision ahead of [President] Obama's meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev this week in Pittsburgh reinforces such thinking.

I had the opportunity this past July to travel to the Baltic States with my friends Senators Durbin, Cardin, and Wicker as part of the U.S. delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to the parliamentary assembly that was held in Vilnius, Lithuania. As part of that trip, I also visited Riga, Latvia—a stop that marked the highest ranking official visit of the United States in Latvia in over 3 years. In all of our bilateral meetings with Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from former Soviet countries or countries the Soviet Union exercised influence over, we were told it was comforting for them to know their membership in NATO serves as a hedge against a potential expansionist Russia.

We should be worried about the uncertainty surrounding a Russia that is

reverting back to a KGB-ruled country seeking to weaponize its oil and natural gas resources as a means to expand its influence on Europe and the West.

I think one of the concerns we all ought to have is that many members of the European Union, instead of coming together and negotiating with Russia over the issue of natural gas, are cutting their own deals. I think we should be very concerned that in the long run many of those countries are not going to be able to make good decisions because of the influence Russia will have over their natural gas resources.

Russia has the world's largest reserves of natural gas and has the eighth-largest oil reserves. Moscow turned off the tap to Ukraine this past winter. They could do it again. We should also be concerned about Moscow using its control of oil and natural gas to pit members of NATO against each other.

There is much talk about resetting the U.S. bilateral relationship with Russia. Moscow seeks to regain its global stature and be respected as a peer in the international community. There is nothing inherently wrong with this.

I believe there are key areas where the United States and Russia share common cause and concern: Russia is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and will be essential to effective multilateral pressure on Iran to give up its nuclear program; Russia continues to have leverage on the North Korean regime and has stated that a nuclear-free Korean peninsula is in the interest of both our countries; we are partners on the International Space Station—in fact, we are going to rely on them to send our NASA people to the space station; and, until the Georgia situation flared in August of last year, our government and U.S. industry were working hard on a nuclear cooperation agreement with Russia, very much like the one we entered into with India.

With the world economy as it is today, the worst thing we could do is break off communication and revert back to our Cold War positions. This week's G-20 conference in Pittsburgh is an opportunity to further engage Russia and determine where we have a symbiotic relationship and what we can accomplish together for the good of the international community. Nevertheless, such a reset should not come at the expense of our Eastern European friends.

Time will tell whether last week's decision will have any influence on Russian cooperation on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty—START—or our efforts to prevent a nuclear-armed Iranian regime.

In the meantime, we have our work cut out as we seek to rebuild confidence and trust with our friends in Eastern Europe. After last week's events, I suspect that their confidence in the reliability of the United States as a partner and ally has been shaken.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BURRIS. Madam President, I would like to speak in morning business.

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

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. BURRIS. Madam President, in my home State of Illinois, there are roughly 44,000 people living with HIV or AIDS.

Every day, these Americans face deadly illnesses that require delicate—and often expensive—treatment.

Thankfully, they don't have to fight this fight alone.

Across America, about 500,000 HIV patients who don't have adequate income or insurance are currently able to receive assistance under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act.

This program supports a wide range of medical and support services that benefit HIV and AIDS patients.

Illinois alone receives \$75 million in Federal funds that serve more than 10,000 people.

These programs make a real difference, not just in my home State, but in every State in the Union.

They are critically important not only for the people who receive treatment, but for public health in general.

That is why we cannot let the Ryan White Act expire on September 30.

If we do not take action right now to reauthorize this program, the treatments will stop.

If we do not stand up for those who need our help, half a million Americans will suddenly find themselves out in the cold.

We cannot let that happen. We must act now keep this safety net in place.

That's why I support a 3-year extension of the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act.

But we shouldn't stop there.

As we reauthorize this legislation, it is a great opportunity to make a few small changes to make it more effective.

We should update the Ryan White Act, to make HIV/AIDS information more accurate.

We need to maintain transitional grant areas, so that essential services can be better matched with existing needs.

We should make sure medical transportation and dietary treatments are covered for all patients.

And we should use common sense to ensure that rebates and grants are

classified and awarded the right way, with less bureaucratic redtape.

This will make the system more efficient, and it will increase the impact this program can have on people's lives.

More than 250 AIDS organizations have already expressed support for these changes, and for the reauthorization of this program.

It is time to stand with them.

It is time to stand with all the people who need treatment.

Let us send a strong message to those who are counting on us to keep the money flowing:

We will not abandon you in your time of need.

If this Senate fails to act by September 30, the aid will stop.

These successful programs—which enjoy broad, bipartisan support—will simply cease to exist.

We cannot let that happen on our watch.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in updating and reauthorizing the Ryan White Act.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

I yield the floor and 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 (Mr. BURRIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, we have a unanimous consent agreement that has taken a lot of work. I appreciate the work of the two managers, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator ALEXANDER. It is not easy, but this is an important piece of legislation. I think it is good for the body.

I heard my friend—I will be real quick; I know we are in a hurry—commenting on the dinner we had last night. I think that was such a timely, fortuitous event we had with Senators getting together to, in effect, cut the ribbon on this wonderful picture out there, 147 years old.

I did not know much about Henry Clay other than he is a famous man but a great compromiser. He said everything legislatively you need to develop a consensus. Legislation is the art of compromise. This is a smaller piece; it is not Henry Clay stuff, but it is good stuff. I appreciate the two managers following in the footsteps of Henry Clay and we were able to work this out.

I ask unanimous consent that the following be the only first-degree amendments and an Ensign motion to recommit, other than the pending amendments, remaining in order to H.R. 2996, Interior appropriations; and that no second-degree amendments be in order

to any of the listed amendments prior to a vote in relation to the amendment, except as noted with respect to Coburn amendment No. 2511; that a managers' amendment also be in order that has been cleared by the managers and the leaders, and that if that amendment is offered, then the vote on adoption of the amendment occur immediately; and that if agreed to, then the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table:

Carper No. 2456, pending, to be withdrawn once a managers' amendment has been agreed to; Collins No. 2498, pending; Isakson No. 2504, as modified, pending; Vitter No. 2549; Ensign motion to recommit; Coburn amendment Nos. 2482, 2463, 2480, 2523, 2466, 2483, 2468, and 2511, with a Feinstein second-degree amendment in order to No. 2511; Feingold No. 2522, to be withdrawn upon the adoption of the managers' amendment; Reid No. 2531; Bingaman No. 2493, with a modification; further, that during the consideration of the bill, Senators Murkowski and Thune each be provided up to 30 minutes, and Senator BOXER for up to 60 minutes for debate only; that upon disposition of all amendments and the motion to recommit, the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, and that the subcommittee plus Senators Inouye and Bond be appointed as conferees; further, that if a point of order is raised against the substitute amendment, then it be in order for another substitute amendment to be offered minus the offending provisions but including any amendments which had been agreed to prior to the point of order; that no further amendments be in order; that the new substitute amendment be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the remaining provisions beyond adoption of the substitute amendment remain in effect; that if there is a sequence of votes, then after the first vote, the succeeding votes be limited to 10 minutes each and that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to each vote, equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that once this agreement is entered, the closure motions be withdrawn.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2996, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Carper amendment No. 2456, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on black carbon emissions.

Collins amendment No. 2498, to provide that no funds may be used for the administrative expenses of any official identified by the President to serve in a position without express statutory authorization and which is responsible for the interagency development or coordination of any rule, regulation, or policy unless the President certifies to Congress that such official will respond to all reasonable requests to testify before, or provide information to, any congressional committee with jurisdiction over such matters, and such official submits certain reports bi-annually to Congress.

Isakson modified amendment No. 2504, to encourage the participation of the Smithsonian Institution in activities preserving the papers and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., under the Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2492, 2501, 2505, 2509, 2518, 2519, 2522, 2534, AS MODIFIED; 2491, AS MODIFIED; 2495, 2507, 2493, AS MODIFIED, EN BLOC

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as part of the unanimous consent agreement entered into this morning by the leader, a managers' package of amendments to the Interior bill is in order.

I would like to proceed to that business now because of yesterday's filing deadline for all first-degree amendments. Each of these amendments which constitute the managers' package have been filed at the desk.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and that the following amendments be called up and considered en bloc, and where modifications are noted, that those modifications be agreed to: Bingaman amendment No. 2492; Risch amendment No. 2501; Carper amendment No. 2505; Roberts amendment No. 2509; Feinstein amendment No. 2518; Feinstein amendment No. 2519; Feingold amendment No. 2522; Whitehouse amendment No. 2534, as modified; Bingaman amendment No. 2491, as modified; Schumer/Durbin amendment No. 2495; Tester/Crapo amendment No. 2507; and, Bingaman amendment No. 2493, as modified.

Let me make one note with respect to Carper amendment No. 2505. The amendment being included in the managers' package is very similar to pending Carper amendment No. 2456. But the version we are adopting now is the version that has been agreed to by both