Mr. President, listening to my good friend from

Illinois, the majority whip, discussing the 60-vote threshold reminds

me of what the majority leader said back on January 30, 2007:

Now, that is life in the Senate. On the Defense authorization bill,

we had two amendments last year, the Kennedy and Enzi amendments, and

both required 60 votes. We are happy to have this debate tonight. It is

my understanding the other side last evening agreed to accept the

Cornyn amendment to the Defense authorization bill. As we indicated, we

have a request for a roll call vote on that amendment. However, we will

be happy to schedule that vote at a reasonable time today. I am told--

and we heard again--that we plan to be here this evening leading up to

the cloture vote on the Levin amendment, and we would be happy to have

that vote today. There is no particular reason to have the Levin-Reed

vote tomorrow; we could have it today.

But look, it is perfectly fine with us to stay here today and this

evening to discuss this very important issue. I couldn't agree with my

friend from Illinois more that it is the significant issue in the

country at this particular juncture. We will be prepared to work with

the majority whip and the majority leader to work out a floor schedule

that allows us to rotate back and forth on a regular basis throughout

the afternoon and the evening, and we look forward to working that out

in a way that is fair to both sides and gives us ample opportunity for

a vigorous debate about this extremely important issue.

I yield the floor.