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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, April 17, 2008)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Great is Your faithfulness, O God, our Father. We rejoice today because we know You are in control. We do not understand all of Your ways, but we know and trust You. Let that faith pervade all that we say and do today.

Guide and bless our Senators. Strengthen their courage and lead them to the right road. May they enact such laws as shall please You. Give them the courage to admit mistakes and the wisdom to trust Your mercy. May they faithfully serve You and promote the well-being of this great Nation.

Lord, we pray also today for all the men and women of our Armed Forces. Defend them day by day with Your Heavenly grace. We pray in your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 18, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, after I speak, and if the Republican leader chooses to speak, we will be in a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. No votes will occur today or on Monday. There will be no votes on Monday because of the Passover holiday. The next vote will occur at 12 noon on Tuesday on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1315, the disabled veterans' benefits bill.

VETERANS BENEFITS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is hard to comprehend why we have to file cloture on a motion to proceed to a bill dealing with veterans, but that is what is happening. It has been heard on this floor on many occasions in recent weeks, but it is hard to comprehend what the Republicans are trying to do with the country, other than maintain the status quo.

We invoked cloture twice on a technical corrections bill, and now, on a

veterans' benefits act, we have to invoke cloture on even being able to debate it. That is really too bad. There have been 4,039 Americans killed in Iraq; I read that in the newspaper this morning. The occupant of the chair indicated to me that he presented a flag to some Ohio people who lost a loved one. Tens of thousands of troops have been wounded. The morning papers report that 20 percent—one out of every five—of the Iraq veterans, our soldiers, coming home from Iraq have traumatic stress disorder.

Mr. President, we have talked about those who have been killed in Iraq, those who have been wounded, but there are also, as a result of this huge military presence there—earlier this year, about 175,000—people who are in the military who get hurt when trucks back over them by mistake or they may have falls—a lot of things happen to disable these veterans. We have been trying to bring this legislation to the floor since last August. In the height of the war, with soldiers being killed every day, being wounded every day, coming home from Iraq every day, we cannot even get to a bill to deal with their health. The Republicans are holding that up. We have been trying since August to bring it up.

This comprehensive, budget-neutral legislation will provide much needed benefits for veterans young and old. The legislation, among other things, would expand the number of individuals qualifying for traumatic injury insurance.

In the morning papers all over the country, there are headlines such as "VA Suicide Hotline Set Up Last Year Credited With Saving 726 Lives So Far." As I said, we have these stories appearing all over the country.

Twenty-two-year-old Joshua Omvig shot himself in his truck outside his parents' home in Grundy Center, Iowa, on December 22, 2005. A local newspaper reported that he

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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had talked to his mother shortly before killing himself. Among his final words: "I've been dead ever since I left Iraq."

As a result of this, and in paying tribute to him, we have created a suicide hotline for veterans. That is what this is all about. We have saved 726 lives. Veterans need help. This is a war like we have never had before. We have never fought a war in big cities, street to street, house to house.

Last night, I had a marine in my office, at about quarter to 7 last night. He came with his wife-to-be, his mother, and his father. They are from Illinois. He is a big, strong man. One of his ears was cauliflowered, as he had been a college wrestler. He was missing his right leg above the knee. He is going to be in and out of the hospital, and he will be able to go home soon. His problem is not with the leg he lost, it is with the leg he still has. He lifted up his pant leg and showed me the scars. He had major surgery and has scars. He is tough and said, "I am going to be just fine."

We are trying to help people such as him. They are all over America, coming home from Iraq and are hurt and need help. We cannot even debate this legislation because Republicans are stalling it. We are having a vote at noon on Tuesday. I hope we will be able to get 60 votes and proceed. You would think there would be nine Republicans who are caring enough to allow us to go forward on this most important issue.

We also extend eligibility for specially adapted housing benefits to individuals with severe burns. This war, which is within cities—I got carried away describing this man's injuries.

I said, "Tell me what happened."

He said, "We came out of the house, climbed in the vehicle, and it blew up."

I said, "How long were you in the truck?"

He said, "Maybe 20 seconds."

The road had been paved—a newly paved road. They put a bomb on it. When he drove over it, the compression caused it to blow up. He had burns—you could see them—on his face. The scars weren't bad, but there were burns.

A lot of the people, because of these explosive devices, have terrible burns. This legislation we want to try to pass extends eligibility for these people who were burned badly to have special housing benefits.

The legislation would extend and increase benefits for individuals trying to change what they do, with apprenticeships and on-the-job training programs.

Also, the legislation would restore veteran status to Filipino veterans who served under U.S. command in World War II. One only need watch Tom Hanks's World War II series that appeared on television. It talked about the valor and the absolute necessity for the Filipino soldiers who were there fighting under our command. We have been trying for decades to extend benefits to them. They are getting very old

with each day that goes by, and more of them are dying. Their average age is well over 80. We want to allow them certain benefits. They fought alongside U.S. troops during World War II. It is the moral obligation of this Nation to provide for those Filipino veterans who fought under the U.S. flag during World War II.

After 8 months of obstruction by the Republicans, it is time to allow this bill to be debated. If there are people who don't like provisions in this bill, they can offer an amendment to try to take them out. Why hold up benefits for veterans?

This legislation provides much needed benefits and includes 8 titles, with 38 benefits. If there were ever a piece of legislation that should not be stalled, obstructed, and delayed, it is this one. We have waited 8 months to bring this up. With the Republicans, it is always tomorrow, we almost have it worked out, or how about tomorrow or next week or next month? We cannot wait any longer. People have to step up to the bar here, Mr. President, on Tuesday at noon and vote to find out if we can legislate for the veterans coming back from Iraq and those veterans who have, prior to Iraq, dedicated their lives to the service of their country, our country.

COMMEMORATING EARTH DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 38 years ago, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin founded Earth Day to celebrate the environment and to call attention to the major environmental issues of the time. Once again we celebrate the progress we have made to protect our environment, and are again called upon to address new challenges facing our planet.

Since Earth Day's conception in 1970 our Nation has worked to reduce pollution and clean up lakes, streams, and the air we breathe. These environmental accomplishments have made us healthier, our economy prosper, and have helped to make America even more beautiful.

Although we have made great strides to improve and protect our environment, it is clear that we are facing one of the gravest environmental challenges of our time. Global warming from man-made greenhouse gas emissions may be the most complicated crisis our world has ever faced. We must address it quickly and boldly in the United States and assert global leadership on this most important issue.

Rising temperatures threaten to devastate western landscapes, intensify drought, and magnify summer heat waves. Fortunately, if we act swiftly, we still have a narrow window of time and opportunity to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Over the next 15 years, I am confident that we can reduce emissions by at least 25 percent. We will establish a framework for capping greenhouse gas

emissions without imposing economic hardship on Americans. We will also create a business environment that provides ample incentives to phase out rapidly our current outdated 19th century energy production and decision-making methods.

Global warming is an enormous opportunity wrapped in a complex challenge. On this Earth Day, I want Nevadans and all Americans to embrace and prepare for the challenge, and recognize the tremendous opportunity we have to improve our energy security, create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and develop the new, clean, efficiency and renewable energy economy of the future. With the right investments and political will, we can soon power all our cars, homes and industry with power from the Sun, the wind, and the Earth.

In a 100-mile-square area of Nevada and the Southwest's desert, we have enough solar energy resources to supply the entire United States with electricity. This might seem unreal today because our thinking is shaped most by those who profit from selling us fossil fuels. But, solar technologies at the utility-scale and in distributed applications are quickly becoming economical and have far fewer of the hidden costs of coal, nuclear and other unsustainable resources.

In addition, we have vast wind and geothermal resources that America has only begun to tap. By expanding and improving transmission access to rural and undeveloped areas where solar, wind and geothermal are often most plentiful, our renewable energy resources can work in affordable harmony, improving our energy security and reliability, using cost-free fuel for ever.

In a speech I gave earlier this year, I established five policy goals to promote renewable energy. These principles will help launch Nevada and the nation in a new direction that chooses ingenuity over stagnation, progress over pollution. They include: consumer choice—allowing consumers to choose renewable energy to power their homes at reasonable cost; consumer empowerment—allowing homeowners to receive credit for generating their own renewable electricity; making space for renewables—setting aside federal land for renewable energy production; investment—providing incentives to utility companies to choose renewables and efficiency over fossil fuels; and electric cars—building a smart grid that can charge electric automobiles.

Achieving these policy goals could help make our nation more sustainable, both environmentally and economically. They are some of the necessary steps we must take toward a low-carbon economy.

Climate scientists tell us that the countries of the world have approximately 10-15 years to radically transform the way that energy is made and consumed because greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere are

verging on dangerous interference with the global climate system. This means making tremendous reductions quickly and ensuring that our energy decisions today do not warp the future for our children and generations to come.

As we celebrate Earth Day this year, I ask that you join me in thinking about the road ahead and how we will overcome this great environmental challenge that we face as Nevadans, Americans, and citizens of the world.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I recognize the National Week of the Young Child. This week provides all of us here in Washington the opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we can better care for children in our communities and more effectively cooperate with teachers, parents, and other caregivers.

Critical to the success of many disadvantaged Iowa children is the Head Start program. If we really want to get kids ready for school, we must focus on early intervention. This means improving access to education and developmental services to help provide kids with a good start in life. Since 1965, Head Start has served more than 24 million low-income children and their families.

Head Start programs help Iowa families to meet young children's basic educational, health, nutritional and social needs with a goal of having these kids ready for the first day of kindergarten. I was pleased to recently help modernize and update Head Start by passing The Head Start for School Readiness Act, which allows more families access to programs, improves early childhood training for Head Start educators, and updates learning standards to reflect the latest research in child development. I also made sure that early learning programs do not ignore the importance of wellness and healthy behaviors by requiring training to integrate physical activity and good nutrition in the classroom.

I have heard tremendous stories from my State of children whose lives were improved through the social services Head Start provides. These children received eye glasses or necessary dental work thanks to the early intervention of our Head Start programs. Head Start educators and employees often connect parents in need to the outreach services which help give children safe and comfortable homes.

I was particularly touched by the story of Rebecca Navarro. She writes that her youngest son, Anthony, received help learning his letters and colors, and improved his social skills, through their local Head Start agency.

At the same time, a Head Start social worker helped Ms. Navarro go back to school and receive her degree, pay for food and utilities and provide a better quality of life for Anthony and his four siblings. Anthony has now successfully graduated the 6th grade with math skills above his grade level, and plans on going to college and getting his master's degree in engineering and math.

Providing our Nation's youngest learners with the tools they need to succeed benefits not only those children and their families, but our Nation as well. While celebrating the victories of Head Start this week, we should also continue to work hard to ensure every child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.●

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN GOSPEL CHORALE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a memorable trip recently taken by a group of students from University of Michigan. Each spring, many students head for warmer climates during spring break. However, the University of Michigan's Gospel Chorale, comprised of 40 students, spent this year's spring break accompanying university president Mary Sue Coleman and other faculty and staff to the nation of Ghana.

During this trip, the Michigan Gospel Chorale performed at churches, schools, colleges and public forums, including the National Theatre and the Kofi Annan International Peace-keeping Training Center, where they were warmly received. In fact, they performed before an audience of more than 2,500 at Ghana's National Theatre. One of their most moving performances occurred when the chorale sang in the dungeons of the Elmina Castle, where slaves were once held captive before they were transported across the ocean.

The purpose of the University's trip to Ghana was to strengthen existing relationships the University of Michigan has in Africa and to explore opportunities for new research programs and for faculty and student cultural exchanges. Currently, more than 120 University of Michigan faculty members are involved in various projects in Ghana and South Africa, and numerous students are taking courses or are involved in research activities.

As you know, the United States has a long history with Ghana, and that partnership continues to grow. The people of Ghana will remember the efforts of the University of Michigan and the Michigan Gospel Chorale's visit for a long time. For the Michigan Gospel Chorale, the journey provided a significant global learning experience. Many of the students had never traveled by air or had been out of the country. I am sure my colleagues agree that it is important for our young people to have opportunities to explore, and to con-

tribute to, our ever-expanding global community.

I know my colleagues join me in commending the University of Michigan and the Michigan Gospel Chorale for their outstanding efforts in fostering goodwill between the United States and the nation of Ghana.●

HOLD ON NOMINATION OF HARVEY E. JOHNSON

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, more than 40 months ago, prior to his confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff told me in my office that if confirmed he would move expeditiously to implement the National Emergency Technology Guard—NET Guard—program. Unfortunately, Secretary Chertoff has so far failed to honor this pledge.

The idea of NET Guard was born in the aftermath of 9-11, when a number of communications and technology companies told me they wanted to help New York City when it was attacked—and there was no system for using their volunteers. Then-Senator George Allen and I moved on a bipartisan basis to support a program, called NET Guard, that would ensure that volunteers with technology expertise could be fully utilized in future crises. These teams of local volunteers with science and technology expertise would be vital in assisting our communities in responding to attacks on communications networks, or recovering from natural disasters. Congress authorized the establishment of NET Guard 5 years ago, in the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

However, DHS has delayed and delayed and so far failed to implement this critical program.

At times, Secretary Chertoff has appeared willing to move forward on NET Guard, but each time he stops short of action. On August 1, 2007, the Secretary pledged to me in a letter that he would be submitting a request to fund the NET Guard program in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget. I will ask that a copy of Secretary Chertoff's letter be printed in the RECORD. I thought this meant that the Secretary recognized NET Guard's potential and understood Congress's intention in authorizing the program. Unfortunately he failed to fulfill this promise and we again find ourselves at an impasse.

I feel that further delay is unacceptable. I reluctantly feel that I must put a hold on the nomination of Harvey E. Johnson who has been nominated by President Bush to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, until the NET Guard program is up and running.

I place this hold reluctantly, but see no other option in light of the Department's foot dragging. I am hopeful that the Department will soon be able to stand up a NET Guard program, and I will be able to withdraw my hold and Mr. JOHNSON's nomination can move through the Senate. In the meantime, I

will object to any unanimous consent agreement to consider Mr. JOHNSON's nomination.

I ask that the letter to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY,
August 1, 2007.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WYDEN: Thank you for taking time this morning to discuss the Department of Homeland Security's plans for the National Emergency Technology Guard (NET Guard) program. Following my June 29, 2007 letter to you that outlined our program approach, and as a prelude to our discussion, members of the Department's NET Guard team briefed your staff on our proposed plan. The positive feedback from your staff, coupled with your positive feedback this morning and the positive feedback that we have received from State, local, and private sector stakeholders, gives us confidence that we are taking the right approach to implementing this important disaster response program.

Accordingly, the Department is moving forward with plans to implement 12-month NET Guard pilots beginning in September 2007. The recommendation to establish pilots in September is consistent with the NET Guard Scoping Initiative Report, which I will provide to you upon its completion this month. To fund our efforts in fiscal year 2007 and 2008, we will continue to work with Congressional appropriators. I will also submit a request to the White House Office of Management and Budget to fund the NET Guard program in fiscal year 2009. On these and other program matters, the Department's Office of Legislative Affairs will keep your staff apprised of our progress.

I appreciate your interest and support of the Department's disaster response mission and look forward to working with you on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL CHERTOFF. •

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2892. A bill to promote the prosecution and enforcement of frauds against the United States by suspending the statute of limitations during times when Congress has authorized the use of military force; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2893. A bill to designate the Ludlow Massacre National Historic Landmark in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2770

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to strengthen the food safety inspection

system by imposing stricter penalties for the slaughter of nonambulatory livestock.

S. 2874

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38, United States Code, to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 518

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. AL-EXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 518, a resolution designating the third week of April 2008 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2892. A bill to promote the prosecution and enforcement of frauds against the United States by suspending the statute of limitations during times when Congress has authorized the use of military force; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this country recently marked the 5-year anniversary of the war in Iraq—a war that the Bush administration refuses to end. The losses in this war have been staggering. More than 4,000 American soldiers have been killed and nearly 30,000 wounded. Hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars has been spent to fight this war, money which could have been—and should have been—used to help American needs here at home. Estimates for the cost of the President's adventure in Iraq are now into the trillions.

Through it all, the Bush administration has chosen essentially to ignore one of its primary obligations during wartime—to protect American taxpayers from losses due to fraud, waste, and abuse of military contracts. Sadly, these problems are all too common in times of war, and have been particularly pervasive in Iraq.

Over the past year, I have chaired hearings in the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees focused on the billions that have been lost to contracting fraud, waste, and abuse during this war. The testimony at those hearings has exposed the Bush administration's failure to take aggressive action

to enforce and punish wartime fraud. It has also shown how difficult it can be for investigators to uncover and prosecute fraud amidst the chaotic environment of war.

These problems have been exacerbated time and time again by the Bush administration, as tens of billions of dollars in "no-bid" and "cost-plus" contracts have been awarded with little, if any, oversight or accountability. Billions in cash—physical, paper money—have been flown to Iraq and handed out in paper bags, often without records of who received what, and when. Billion dollar contracts for training services cannot be audited because the records are incomplete, lost, or in disarray. The Government has been billed for defective products, like faulty ammunition, unsafe bulletproof vests, and even unsanitary drinking water for the troops.

Too often we do not learn about serious fraud until years after the fact. What we do know is that tens of billions of dollars are unaccounted for, and potentially lost to fraud, and little has been done to hold anyone accountable and recover the lost money.

This problem is not entirely new. Our nation has faced challenges in past wars. During World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke out against "war millionaires" who made excessive profits exploiting the calamity of war. President Harry Truman, when he served in the Senate, held historic public hearings to expose gross fraud and waste by military contractors during the war.

Unlike the current President, however, Presidents Roosevelt and Truman took action to ensure that wartime fraud could be successfully investigated and prosecuted despite the difficulties presented by an ongoing war.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed the Wartime Suspension of Limitations Act, which made it possible for criminal fraud offenses against the United States to be prosecuted after the war was over. President Truman signed a bill making that law permanent in 1948.

Everyone understood then that it was unrealistic to believe that all contracting fraud could be tracked down immediately in the midst of a war. The law provided for the suspension of the statute of limitations until the war was over. Congress supported this law overwhelmingly, as they had with a similar provision during World War I. President Roosevelt wrote: "The crisis of war should not be used as a means of avoiding just penalties for wrongdoing."

While the provision for post-war enforcement against fraud is still the law today, the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are exempt from its requirements. This Roosevelt-era law only applies "when the United States is at war." The military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan were undertaken without Congressional declarations of war. In recent decades, Congress has

considered authorizations for the use of the Armed Forces, rather than formal declarations of war. I voted for the authorization to strike back at Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. I voted against the ill-conceived authorization to go into Iraq.

Today we introduce the Wartime Enforcement of Fraud Act of 2008, which updates President Roosevelt's law for our times. This will allow us better to protect American taxpayers from contracting fraud today, just as we did during World War II. I thank Senator GRASSLEY for his co-sponsorship of this important legislation. He has been a leader in Congress on efforts to investigate and combat fraud against the United States.

This bill would make current law suspending the statute of limitations during wartime applicable to the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. In doing so, we would allow investigators and auditors to continue their efforts to uncover criminal fraud and for those who commit fraud to be brought to justice after the conflicts end. If left unchanged, under the current statute of limitations, each passing day of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan could amount to immunizing fraudulent conduct by war contractors that has gone undiscovered during the Bush Administration or during the conflicts.

This legislation would make three simple changes to current law. First, it would suspend the statute of limitations not only to when the United States is technically engaged in a declared war, but also when Congress has enacted a specific authorization for the use of the Armed Forces consistent with the War Powers Resolution. In doing so, this language would apply the existing World War II-era law to the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to similar actions in the future. It would not apply, however, to international peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations or to military actions not specifically authorized by Congress.

Second, the legislation would extend the statute of limitations for five years after the end of the conflict. The statute of limitations today for criminal fraud offense is five years from the time of the offense, and this bill would

just toll the running of the statute during the conflict itself and not a day longer.

Three, the bill would make clear that a Presidential proclamation ending hostilities, and thus ending the tolling of the statute of limitations period, must be a formal proclamation with notice to Congress. Secret proclamation by the President or a self-serving "mission accomplished" speech will not do the trick.

The statute of limitations is an important check on the proper use of government power, and we should not act to suspend it except in extraordinary circumstances. Wars provide exactly such circumstances, and current law recognizes this common sense reality by suspending the statute of limitation for fraud offenses during wartime. It would be wrong to exempt the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from this law and to allow war profiteers immunity for their illegal and unpatriotic conduct during wartime.

President Roosevelt called upon Congress to act on this important matter during World War II. Today, I echo his concerns and call upon the Senate to pass this legislation to protect the American taxpayers from war contracting fraud. This Congress should pass—and the President should sign—the Wartime Enforcement of Fraud Act of 2008 without delay.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2892

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wartime Enforcement of Fraud Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. SUSPENSION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS WHEN CONGRESS HAS AUTHORIZED THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE.

Section 3287 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "or Congress has enacted a specific authorization for the use of the Armed Forces, as described in section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b))," after "is at war";

(2) by inserting "or directly connected with or related to the authorized use of the

Armed Forces" after "prosecution of the war";

(3) by striking "three years" and inserting "5 years";

(4) by striking "proclaimed by the President" and inserting "proclaimed by a Presidential proclamation, with notice to Congress,"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following: "For purposes of applying such definitions in this section, the term 'war' includes a specific authorization for the use of the Armed Forces, as described in section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)).".

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m., Monday, April 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask that the RECORD remain open until 12 noon today, for the purpose of introducing bills, resolutions, cosponsors, and statements.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. As previously announced, there will be no votes on Monday because of the Passover holiday. The next vote will occur at 12 noon on Tuesday, April 22, on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1315, the Disabled Veterans Act.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. REID. There being no further business to come before the Senate today, I move we stand adjourned under the previous order.

The motion was agreed to, and, at 10:19 a.m., the Senate adjourned until Monday, April 21, 2008, at 3 p.m.