

on the Senate floor that I have actually been in a plane crash.

But, I oppose this measure because I believe that the American people are taxed too much. Why is it that general revenues, collected through income taxes, are not enough to cover such basic government services as safe skies.

Further, even if we were to impose such a fee, we should find offsetting spending and tax cuts so that we do not increase the tax burden on the American people. Regrettably, this effort failed in the House of Representatives.

Finally, this tax could be restructured so that it does not punish traveling Americans, but such a report on restructuring is not due until October of this year.

For all of these reasons I oppose the ticket tax.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 668) was passed.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I thank the distinguished chairman from Delaware for his efforts in this matter. I think it is clearly the right thing to do. The alternative would have been a catastrophe with our aviation programs in this country. We did not really have any alternative, and I think we have taken the right step. The proof that it is the right thing to do is that it passed overwhelmingly in the House, I think close to 370 votes perhaps, and in the Senate, while there are some reservations about it, we are able to move it with unanimous consent.

So I think the leadership of the committee.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Will the majority leader yield for a comment?

Mr. LOTT. I will be delighted to yield.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Madam President, this is the first measure to be reported from the Committee on Finance, and once again it was reported unanimously. In the last Congress, of the 10 major measures that came out under the leadership of Senator ROTH, 6 were unanimous, which speaks of his chairmanship and prudence and desire to enhance revenues.

Mr. LOTT. I am glad the Senator put it so delicately, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, I would just like to say to the distinguished majority leader, it would not have been possible to have gotten this through unanimously without the active support of the ranking member, and I publicly thank him for his contribution.

I should also like to point out that what we did is exactly what was requested by the administration.

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. ROTH. To carry it out until September 30. And that is exactly what we

did. I think this is a wise move. It protects the safety of our air passengers. I thank the leader for his help in this matter.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I thank the Chair.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Madam President, may I just concur in those remarks. May I also report that the trust fund began in the administration of President Nixon, and our distinguished Senator from Utah was the person who managed the representation up on Capitol Hill, from the Department of Transportation.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 378

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I understand that S. 378, introduced today by Senator THOMPSON, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 378) to provide additional funding for the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT. I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request on behalf of Senators on the Democratic side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be read a second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I yield the floor.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I would like to draw the Senate's attention to a statement that was made yesterday by an individual heavily involved in the debate on partial-birth abortions. Like most Americans, I oppose partial-birth abortions. These latest facts which have now come to light show that the defense of this indefensible procedure has been built on some outright lies.

Yesterday, Wednesday, February 26, in the New York Times, there was a story that ran on page A-11, detailing the admissions of Ron Fitzsimmons, the executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers. In the course of that article, and in another published in the American Medical News dated March 3, Mr. Fitzsimmons admits to lying, "through [his] teeth," during his defense of partial-birth abortions, when he said that the procedure was used rarely and only on women whose lives were in danger or whose fetuses were damaged.

"It made me physically ill" to make these statements, he said. "I told my wife the next day, 'I can't do this again.'"

The lies he admitted to focus on three major issues about partial-birth abortion, which is a terrible procedure,

a late-term child being pulled out, mostly delivered, turned over, and then the abortion performed.

The lies he admitted to focus on three major issues: No. 1, the number of these abortions performed annually in the United States; No. 2, the physical health of the mother and child involved; and, No. 3, the timing of the majority of partial-birth abortions.

In an April 10, 1992, news conference announcing his veto of a ban on this procedure, H.R. 1833, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, the President said, "This terrible problem affects a few hundred Americans every year." And that has been continued to be claimed by a number of others. Yet, Mr. Fitzsimmons' admission is different. In the New York Times he now says the "procedure is performed far more often than his colleagues have acknowledged, and on healthy women bearing healthy fetuses."

The Medical News story reports on an investigation done by the Record, a Bergen County, NJ, newspaper, and they stated this:

The New Jersey paper reported last fall that physicians at one facility performed an estimated 3,000 abortions a year on fetuses between 20 and 24 weeks of which at least half are by intact D&E [dilation and evacuation]. One of the doctors was quoted as saying, "We have an occasional amnio abnormality, but it's a minuscule amount . . . most are for elective, not medical reasons; people who did not realize, or didn't care, how far along they were."

The Washington Post investigation turned up similar findings.

I report that and put that forward here to the Senate, as this is an issue that is one of the front 10 Senate bills to face this body. It is a bill I hope we can act on. It is a bill, passed last year by both the House and Senate and vetoed by the President, to ban this late-term-abortion procedure, a procedure that is an abhorrent procedure, opposed by virtually all American people. Now we are finding out from some of the leading people advocating on the other side that they misrepresented—indeed, he said, "outright lied" about the number and the timeframe as to when these were performed.

I hope we can move forward aggressively and quickly on banning this procedure in America. And I hope the President will reconsider, in light of these factual statements, in light of this information that is coming forward from particular people involved directly in the industry, and that he will sign the bill this year, when we pass this, to ban this horrendous procedure that has continued to be allowed in our civilized country.

I commend all Senators to read this article that appeared yesterday in the New York Times, and the article I cited that is going to be appearing in the Medical News. I think it will add new light to this situation, and, hopefully, we can move forward, united, to take away this terrible situation that continues to happen in our country.

With that I yield the floor.