

passed overwhelmingly in the House, as it will here. I only know of two or three people who are opposed to it. That should not be enough to stop this bill.

In fact, I will join with the majority leader if he wants to bring the satellite bill up and instantly file cloture. I could get him the necessary signatures in 20 seconds. I can guarantee him that if it was necessary—and I hope that it would not be—to vote cloture, he would get far more than the 60 votes necessary for it; 90 to 95 Members of the Senate want to pass this. I hope the distinguished majority leader will allow it to come to a vote.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). In my capacity as the Senator from New Hampshire, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 4 p.m. under the same terms as previously ordered.

Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

In my capacity as the Senator from New Hampshire, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, is the Senate currently in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in morning business until the hour of 4 p.m.

#### REGULATING THE INTERSTATE TRANSPORT OF PRISONERS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I have introduced a piece of legislation in the Senate with my colleagues, Senator ASHCROFT from Missouri, and Senator LEAHY from Vermont. I have written this legislation with their assistance to deal with a problem that could cause and will cause and perhaps has caused significant jeopardy to Americans, American families and others.

Let me describe the circumstance. There is a young girl from North Dakota named Jeanna North. Jeanna was a wonderful 11-year-old young girl from Fargo, ND, who was brutally murdered by a man named Kyle Bell. Kyle Bell had previously been sentenced to 30 years in prison for assaulting three

other girls, had been convicted of violent acts, and then sentenced to life in prison for murdering this 11-year-old girl, Jeanna North, in Fargo, ND.

This convicted child murderer and violent offender, after being convicted and sentenced in the courts of North Dakota, was being transported to prison in another state. Apparently, folks who molest children and are convicted of crimes against children sometimes are put in prisons elsewhere because they run into problems in prison. Even in that culture they are not considered very good people, so child molesters are sent to other prisons for their own safety. This fellow named Kyle Bell, who killed young Jeanna North, was being transported to a prison in the State of Oregon.

This convicted child killer was being transported by a private company which was contracted by the State of North Dakota. Apparently—and I wasn't aware of this—there are transport companies that hire themselves to State and local governments to transport prisoners and criminals around the country. The private company's name was Transcor.

Kyle Bell was on a bus with more than a dozen other prisoners. The bus stopped in New Mexico at a gas station. One guard got out of the bus to fill the bus with some fuel, a second guard got out of the bus and went into the service station apparently to buy a hamburger or whatever one was going to buy at the food station, and two other guards fell asleep on the bus. The other guards slept on the bus.

Kyle Bell, a convicted child killer, in handcuffs and shackles—with one guard putting gas in the bus, the second guard buying food in the gas station, and the other two asleep in the front seat—Kyle Bell took a key he had in his shoe, took off his shackles and climbed out the ventilator, the roof of the bus. That bus then continued on its route. It wasn't for 9 hours, when the bus was already in Arizona, that the guards discovered this convicted child killer had escaped. Nine hours later they finally discovered he had escaped. Two hours after that, the guards finally notified law enforcement authorities.

Today this man is somewhere in this country. "America's Most Wanted" did a story last Saturday, the second they have done. Now over a month has gone by and this violent child killer is somewhere on the loose.

Why? Because a private company that is required to meet no standards at all hired itself out to haul violent criminals. If you hire yourself out to haul toxic waste interstate, I will tell you one thing: you are going to have to meet standards. If you are going to haul toxic waste, one State to another, you have to comply with reasonable standards for public safety. The same is true if you haul circus animals. The same is true if you are trucking cattle across the country. But if you truck convicted killers across the country—

no standards at all. If you want to be in that business, get your cousin, your brother-in-law, maybe a couple sons, buy a minivan and you are in business. Contract with a State or local government and you can haul violent criminals through Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota, New Hampshire, anywhere. You do not have to meet any minimum standards. There is something wrong with that.

Senator ASHCROFT and I and Senator LEAHY are introducing a piece of legislation saying: If you are holding yourself out to do business hauling violent criminals interstate in this country, then you must meet some reasonable minimum standards.

When Kyle Bell walked away from that rest stop, he was wearing civilian clothes. Apparently, he walked into a parking lot, they think, of a shopping center. But he wouldn't have been noticed as a convicted child killer because he was wearing civilian clothes. One would ask the question: if you are hauling a convicted killer across this country, why would you not have that convicted killer in an orange suit that says "prisoner" on it? Instead, he was sitting on that bus with a key in his shoe and civilian clothing, so when he slipped out of that bus when the guards were asleep and walked into a shopping center parking lot, apparently no one noticed. So over a month has gone by and people in this country are at risk because this convicted killer is on the loose.

This young girl, Jeanna North, who died, you can imagine how her folks feel. I talked to her folks last week. The aunt and uncle of Kyle Bell, this murderer, are worried as well because he has threatened his own relatives.

The point is this: All of this has happened because a private company decides it is going to hire itself out to haul killers around the country, but there are no standards to be met. Senator ASHCROFT and I and Senator LEAHY believe the Justice Department ought to write standards—no tougher than they themselves will follow in the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the U.S. Marshals Service. Incidentally, they do transport killers all across the country. The U.S. Marshals Service has done it for years; so has the Federal Bureau of Prisons. We believe there ought to be some minimum standards that apply to these companies. The Justice Department ought to be able to establish those standards that are no greater than the standards that will be complied with by the Federal agencies themselves.

Is this, this escape of Kyle Bell, some sort of strange and unusual occurrence? No, regrettably it is not. Let me give a few examples.

Although there are no reporting requirements for private companies that haul convicted prisoners across this country, media reports indicate that in the last 3 years alone, 21 violent convicted prisoners have escaped during transport by private companies. No