

all those crossing the Northern border from Canada, and injure the Northern economy as critical trade and travel routes are slowed. In my State of Maine, this new border policy would have the most immediate impact on border communities such as Calais, Houlton, Madawaska, Fort Kent, and Jackman. Businesses in these communities rely on Canadians to cross the border each and every day in order to buy their goods and services. In addition, the impact on critical Maine trade, including lumber and tourism, would extend beyond these communities and reverberate across my State.

The bill we consider today, H.R. 4489, the Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000, repeals Section 110 of the Immigration law. In its place, the bill directs the Immigration and Naturalization Service to amass data already collected at entrance and departure points in an electronically searchable manner. The legislation explicitly states no new documentary requirements or data collection can be directed as a result of the passage of this bill, ensuring that INS new database will rely on already available data.

Those of us who represent the northern regions of our country have been working for over four years now to repeal Section 110. With the support of Senate colleagues, the deadline for implementation of the entry/exit control system for land and sea points of entry has been postponed until March 31, 2001. But until now, we have been unable to break the impasse that left Section 110 in place. I salute all the efforts which have yielded this ground breaking agreement today, particularly the hard work of Senator ABRAHAM who has worked tirelessly on this issue. I look forward to passage of H.R. 4489, and a final end to the threat to the economy posed by Section 110 of the 1996 Immigration law.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

DASCHLE AMENDMENT NO. 3148

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on May 16, 2000, the United States Senate took a procedural vote on Senator DASCHLE's amendment to S. 2521, the Military Construction Appropriations Bill. Senator DASCHLE lost this procedural vote by a vote of 42-54.

I did not support the Daschle amendment at that time because it was a procedural amendment to an unrelated bill. This unrelated Daschle amendment kept the Senate away all day from the important business of the Military Construction Appropriations Bill. In addition, it appeared that the Daschle amendment might indefinitely delay consideration of this important bill. As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have a responsibility to secure passage of the important Military Construction Appropriations Bill. This bill provides critically needed funding for military construc-

tion projects, improves the quality of life for the men and women who are serving our country in the armed forces, and sustains the readiness of our armed forces. These areas are traditionally underfunded, and this bill provides the necessary funds to help make up for this shortfall. For these reasons, I did not support the Daschle amendment when it came before me on a procedural vote on May 16, 2000.

Subsequent to the procedural vote on the Daschle amendment on May 16, 2000, Senators LOTT and DASCHLE reached an agreement to have two up or down votes—one on the aforementioned Daschle amendment and another on an amendment to be offered by Senator LOTT. Under the agreement, debate on the amendments was limited by a time agreement.

Once this leadership agreement was reached, it became apparent that the Daschle amendment would no longer indefinitely delay the Military Construction Appropriations Bill. Therefore, my previous objections to this amendment were no longer relevant.

The Daschle amendment is a "Sense of the Senate" amendment. After stating a number of findings, the amendment states, among other things, that it is the Sense of the Senate that "Congress should immediately pass a conference report to accompany" the Juvenile Justice Bill that includes the Senate passed gun-related provisions.

During the Senate's debate of the Juvenile Justice Bill in May of 1999, I supported the Lautenberg amendment, and other amendments to close the gun show loophole in the Brady Act. I also supported an amendment to require licensed firearm dealers to provide a secure gun storage or safety device when a handgun is sold, delivered or transferred. Unfortunately, the Juvenile Justice Bill has been locked in a House and Senate Conference Committee.

I remain firm in my stance on these issues. I certainly hope that House and Senate conferees can reach an agreement in conference on the Juvenile Justice Bill. And, I will continue to support the common-sense gun provisions that passed the Senate during the Juvenile Justice debate. I believe the Senate passed gun-related amendments to the Juvenile Justice Bill will help keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons and increase public safety without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens. Therefore, when it became clear that the Daschle amendment would not indefinitely delay consideration of the Military Construction Appropriations Bill, I supported this amendment and voted for it on May 17, 2000.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SENATOR LANDRIEU WELCOMES HIS EXCELLENCY, MUGUR ISARESCU

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to

extend a warm welcome to His Excellency, Mugur Isarescu, the Prime Minister of Romania. Prime Minister Isarescu's visit is very well-timed. United States' policy in the Balkans is at a decisive point. We took an extremely important vote in the Senate last week that served as a litmus test for our commitment to the region. I am relieved at the results. Ultimately, the United States did not send the wrong signal to Serbia about our intentions. However, the amendment by the Senior Senators from Virginia and West Virginia, gave the Senate the opportunity to reevaluate our role in the Balkans. The debate of that amendment highlighted the need to establish a more coherent rationale for our leadership in the region.

Mr. President, that is why the Prime Minister's visit is so opportune. The United States has rarely had an ally that has suffered so much for the reward of serving a just cause. However, that is precisely what Romania has done. Romania enjoys good relations with all of its neighbors, but the historical links with Yugoslavia were particularly strong. Yugoslavia, under Tito, was a role-model for how Romania could find a middle path between the superpowers and allow western influence without provoking the Soviets. As you might expect, they shared strong commercial and economic ties. Furthermore, the Danube, the critical life-line for intra-European trade, runs through both countries.

Because of Romania's stalwart support of the NATO mission in Kosovo, we have compelled them to forgo these ties. It has come at great economic cost, and I believe that is incumbent upon the United States, and all of NATO to recognize this sacrifice. However, beyond calling attention to the steadfastness of Romania and other Partnership for Peace nations in our Kosovo mission, the Prime Minister's visit also represents a true opportunity. Romania has had to cope with instability and shifting power-struggles throughout its history. We are fortunate to have an ally who can provide wise counsel as we navigate our way through this region. Furthermore, Romania's help comes from a faultless motivation. Romania would like to be embraced by the institutions of the West. They earnestly desire to participate in NATO and the European Union. Rather than play a game of horse-trading, Romania has tried living up to the ideals of NATO membership before entering the alliance.

Mr. President, I would again like to welcome the Prime Minister, thank the Romanian people for their sacrifice in the Kosovo conflict, and wish the Romanian government well as it seeks to further the excellent working-relationship that we have established since the end of Communism.●