

Murray	Sarbanes	Thomas
Nelson (FL)	Schumer	Thompson
Nelson (NE)	Sessions	Thurmond
Nickles	Shelby	Torricelli
Reed	Smith (OR)	Voivovich
Reid	Snowe	Warner
Roberts	Specter	Wyden
Rockefeller	Stabenow	
Santorum	Stevens	

NAYS—10

Boxer	Dodd	Hutchison
Brownback	Durbin	Wellstone
Corzine	Feingold	
Dayton	Harkin	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Fitzgerald

NOT VOTING — 1

Smith (NH)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this question, the yeas are 88, the nays are 10, with 1 Senator responding "present." Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I know the hour for recess is here, but at 2:15 I will renew a unanimous consent agreement that Senator DOMENICI and I have offered on at least two or three separate occasions on previous days to have a cutoff time for the filing of amendments to the energy and water appropriations bill. I hope both the Democrats and Republicans during their noon conferences take up this issue. It is an important bill. Until there is a filing of amendments, staff cannot work on these to see if we can accept some of them. It would be helpful in moving this bill and having a fair, responsible piece of legislation so we wouldn't have to work on these at the last minute.

I will renew my request at 2:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask what is the pending matter before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate is to stand in recess until 2:15.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I may be allowed to address the Senate as in morning business for the next 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, the Senator is recognized.

ELECTIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am going to come to the floor later with lengthier remarks, but there are two subject matters I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues that I am sure they have taken note of over the last several days. The first is the continuing reports about last year's elections in the United States. Obviously, there was particular focus on the State of Florida. But, Mr. President, as you know because of your deep interest in the subject as well, we believe this was not exclusively a Florida issue. Nor was it merely an issue involving the national election last year. Mr. Presi-

dent, we have a serious problem, based on a number of studies that have been conducted by Members of the other body as well as the Civil Rights Commission and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whereby as many as 6 million people did not have their votes counted last year. That is in addition, I suppose, to the 3 million people we now know who actually tried to vote but were told they were not allowed to vote despite the fact they actually had the right.

That is now 9 million people. I know of 10 million people who are blind in this country who did not vote last year. Only one State in the United States actually allows people who are blind to go in and vote on their own. In any other jurisdiction, if you are blind you must be accompanied by someone else. You never get to vote in private, in spite of the fact there is hardly an elevator in America built in the last 5 years where there is not Braille to assist you. You can operate an elevator alone but you cannot cast a ballot alone in the United States.

So there is a growing sense of scandal, in my view, not because someone was involved in some criminal enterprise to deprive people of the right to vote or to manufacture or manipulate the outcome of the election. I use the word "scandal" to speak of a situation in which only one out of every two eligible Americans is casting his or her vote. And even those who do are not having their votes counted properly; that is of deep concern to me.

Patrick Henry, one of the great voices that gave birth to this Nation, once said that the right to vote is the right upon which all other rights depend. I believe he was correct more than 230 years ago, and even now, as we enter into the 21st century.

We lecture the world all the time on how to conduct free and democratic elections, yet there is a growing body of evidence that suggests we could do a much better job in America in how our elections are conducted, in what support we provide our local communities and precincts, and by setting some national standards so we never again idly sit and watch an election during which as many as 6 million votes went uncounted. These were people who exercised their civic responsibility and showed up on election day to cast a ballot and, because of faulty machinery or other shortcomings, their ballots were never counted—not to mention the people suffering a variety of physical disabilities who were denied that right as well.

It is my hope that in the coming weeks, as we gather more information from across the country about how we could do a better job, we will put adequate resources into this. I say this as my seatmate, normally sitting to my right, is now sitting over here in a chair to the left—the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I have not had a chance to speak with the chairman about this. I will not abuse a pub-

lic forum to do so at this moment, but I know he cares about these issues as much as I do, and we might talk about how we might provide some resources to our States to ensure that the equipment is modernized, that we no longer have machinery that is a half century old in some cases, as it is, to be used by people who wish to cast their ballots. My hope is we can come up with some national standards, provide the resources to our States, and do a much better job, a much better job in seeing to it that people vote in this country and that their votes are then counted.

I cannot begin adequately to express the sense of outrage I sense among people all across this country who were so terribly disappointed, to put it mildly, who went to vote and discovered their votes were not counted.

Put aside your feelings about the outcome of the election. We have a President. His name is George W. Bush. I stood on the west front of the Capitol on January 20, and I certainly believe in the depths of my soul that this is the President of the United States. My concerns are not about the legitimacy of the person who sits in the White House. My concerns are about the legitimacy of a process that I think is in dire need of repair—the election process in this country.

I don't know how much more evidence we need to have accumulated by independent studies based on last year's results, especially now that the New York Times, Miami Herald, other newspapers, as well as the organizations I have already mentioned, have looked at the elections of last year and have concluded by and large that there are serious problems with the present electoral process.

I would like to address this issue at greater length later today, but I wanted to raise the matter here before we went into recess over the next hour or two.

Finally, I would like to mention a matter that I think is tremendously important—and I should point out to my colleagues here that the Presiding Officer shares an equal passion about this issue as the Senator from Connecticut. I look forward very much, working with him as a member of the Judiciary Committee that has very specific jurisdiction over the Voting Rights Act of 1965, on how we can listen to people across this country, gather as much adequate information as we can and then propose to our colleagues some meaningful ideas, both resources and ideas, on how we can minimize the electoral problems that occurred not just last year but have been occurring over the last number of years.

THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Mr. DODD. The second subject matter is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This morning the New York Times as well as others reported that there were serious reservations