

I yield the floor, and I make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DORGAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Florida.

#### BIPARTISAN RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I was so inspired by the comments of the Senator from North Dakota that I felt compelled to rise to offer my additional comments to the thoughts the Senator from North Dakota has offered.

I have gone home each weekend and heard my people respond that they are so proud that they have seen a unanimity of purpose, a unity of leadership, unity of the executive and legislative branches of Government, and they are so proud that they have seen bipartisanship as America has responded to the crisis we now face.

In the midst of that unity and that bipartisanship, we have seen swift action on a number of pieces of legislation:

First of all, the emergency supplemental that would appropriate \$20 billion to respond to the terrorists and another \$10 billion to respond to the crisis in New York;

Then, as the Senator pointed out, the quick action on the financial package for the airlines so that we can get people back into the air and help shore up this major component of our economy.

But in the midst of all this unity, I think that partisanship and ideological rigidity is beginning to raise its ugly head again, for as the Senator from North Dakota has pointed out, there was an objection offered last week when we needed to pass a Department of Defense authorization bill that held it up some 5 days more. Finally, we got an agreement after a tortuous process of trying to explain to others that you couldn't load down the Department of Defense authorization bill with everybody's agenda, that you had to keep it pure and address the defense needs of this country, particularly at a time such as this.

We came to a point yesterday late in the day where the majority leader—and I believe the minority leader—wanted to agree to the unanimous consent request of the majority leader to proceed on this airline security bill, and yet there were objections—perhaps for some partisan reasons, perhaps for some ideological reasons, perhaps for some parochial reasons. But as so eloquently pointed out by the Senator from North Dakota, are we forgetting what is in the interest of the country, which is to get the American public flying again, and to help all of these myriad of industries that are depend-

ent upon a healthy airline industry with lots of passengers?

My State is clearly one that is so desperately affected by the lack of airline travel and its spillover into the hotels, restaurants, and the visitor attractions. You can go on with car rental companies, on and on.

The majority leader, our wonderful leader, Senator DASCHLE—I think with the concurrence of the minority leader certainly in wanting to be there—wants a bill that would put sky marshals on the planes, that would strengthen the cockpit doors, that would have enhanced and federalized screening of passengers, that would help train the crews for anti-hijacking procedures, that would require background checks on those who are not citizens who want to learn to fly in our flight schools, and all of those things that are unanimously embraced in this country and that we want to pass.

As so adequately pointed out by the Senator from North Dakota, it is 4:25 on Thursday and we can't proceed to the bill. We can't even proceed to the motion to proceed because it is going to be filibustered.

We will pass the motion to proceed next Tuesday. But then there are 30 hours of debate on the motion to proceed before we can ever get to the airline security bill unless people will come to their senses as to what is in the national interest, putting aside their partisan concerns, putting aside their parochial concerns, and coming together again in what has been a bright, shining moment for America in the unity and bipartisanship that has been displayed in the last 3 weeks.

I was sufficiently moved by the comments of the Senator from North Dakota that I wanted—I thank him for taking my place in the chair as the Presiding Officer—to offer these remarks.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. NELSON of Florida pertaining to the introduction of S. 1506 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RAIL SECURITY

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak with strong support for an amendment that I know my colleague from Delaware, the senior Senator, JOE BIDEN, will be offering which deals with the issue of rail transportation up and down the east coast—actually across the country, an amendment that provides about \$3 billion to enhance the security of our rail transportation network.

This happens to be an amendment that I think fits extraordinarily well and is extraordinarily important in providing a comprehensive security package for our transportation network in this country.

The tragic events of recent weeks have focused attention on our need to improve the safety and soundness of our transportation network, in particular our airlines. I congratulate the leaders of the Senate, our majority leader, TOM DASCHLE, and the minority leader, TRENT LOTT, along with Senators HOLLINGS and MCCAIN, for their outstanding work to bring forward a package that I believe our Nation is asking for, is demanding: that we recognize we need to improve the safety of our aviation system in this country.

We need to be a little more forward looking. We need to think outside just the events that have occurred to what could occur and where the next tragedies might very well occur.

While we are tightening aviation security, we need to address problems that may very well exist in other parts of our transportation system.

Just yesterday we experienced a serious problem in our country's bus network. Fortunately, it was not of the same tragic proportions, but we saw, once again, a criminal taking over a bus and attacking the driver, leading to the death of five innocent passengers.

We have a vulnerable transportation system in this country. Unfortunately, our rail system may be the most vulnerable. That is why we need the Biden initiative, hopefully with a number of Senators from across the country supporting it. We need to address this issue before a problem occurs.

Talk about proportionality. In fiscal year 2000, Amtrak provided ridership for 22.5 million folks. Out of New York City, there were 8.5 million boardings. It is an enormous contributor to the transportation system in this country. It is an important one.

We learned that it is complementary to our transportation system as we saw the shutdown of Reagan National and we saw the aftermath of the events.

It is not just passenger traffic. Freight traffic feeds one of the most important ports in our country, the New York-New Jersey port. Up and down the east coast, there is tremendous interconnectivity of our society through rail traffic. This is one of our most vulnerable spots, and I think it needs to be addressed on an emergency basis. I think a lot of my colleagues do,