

the action taken by the mass will determine what happens in our State.

It seems to put us in a position where what is best for Alaska and what is best for our constituents based on what they tell us they want is somewhat overridden by the dictate of those outside the state. We happen to be the only State still under development. We came in with Hawaii, but obviously we are a State with huge resources. We have 56 million acres of wilderness in our State. I think somebody figured out how much oil there is in ANWR and the comparison of whether it is a viable supply. They did a calculation, and based on 10 billion barrels, it would amount to a supply for Connecticut for 126½ years.

I see my colleague has had to leave to take a phone call, but I am going to be answering throughout the day some of his generalizations because, frankly, they do not hold water, and they certainly do not hold oil. He indicated a willingness to proceed on a very studied and timely process he hopes will be reflected in the bill we understand is coming down, not from the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee but, rather, from the majority leader.

We have been working on this legislation in committee for several years. We have held extensive hearings. So it is not something that has not had a great deal of forethought, has not had a great deal of consideration. It was removed, through the dictates of the majority leader, from the committee of jurisdiction. It has been taken away from the committee, and whatever bill we will be seeing will not be representative of a bipartisan effort but strictly the result of Senator DASCHLE and I assume others on their side of the aisle. So we will be right back in the same position we were on the Finance Committee relative to the manner in which the stimulus package was submitted. It was submitted on one side, and the Republicans had no input into it.

The point is this Nation needs a policy, regardless of what poll we see, on the issue of national energy security.

There is virtually total support we should have an energy bill.

Now the merits of ANWR obviously get us into a discussion, but we believe that dramatically there has been a turnaround in public opinion. One of the reasons that turnaround has occurred is the realization of what happened off Iraq a few weeks ago where we were boarding a tanker. We had the U.S. Navy inspecting the tanker for the specific purpose of determining whether Saddam Hussein was exporting oil above and beyond that of the guidelines of the U.N. They boarded this ship. The ship sank. Two American sailors died. That might not have been necessary had our previous President not vetoed a bill in 1995 that would have allowed the opening of ANWR because that did pass this body in 1995.

These are what ifs, I know, but nevertheless, to suggest somehow we can-

not do this safely is basically incorrect. That we would not get oil for 10 years is totally incorrect. We will have oil within 18 months to 2 years because we only have about 60 miles of pipeline. To say it is a 6-month supply is not accurate because that would presume no other domestic production anywhere in the U.S., and no imports of oil. Under what realistic circumstance would all other oil production be terminated in the United States as well as imports coming in? ANWR is estimated to hold between 5.6 and 16 billion barrels. If it is half that, it will be as large as Prudhoe Bay, which has supplied this Nation with 25 percent of its oil for the last 27 years. Many of the opponents who are going to speak against this have not been up there. They have not met with the Native people who are affected. Our people in Alaska, as American citizens, deserve that consideration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

#### THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I thank the Senator from Alaska and I thank the Presiding Officer, the Senator from Hawaii, who is kind enough to stay a couple of moments extra before I take the chair so that I might make a couple of remarks.

I compliment and encourage the bipartisan efforts among the leadership in meeting with the President to discuss how to best proceed on an economic stimulus package.

The efforts of those negotiators, in the framework set out last night whereby the top elected leadership of both parties in this Chamber will approach their efforts with the leadership in the House of Representatives and come to an agreement with regard to a stimulus package and taxes, is clearly a step in the right direction. We do need a stimulus package. We need it as soon as possible. We need it operative by the end of this year.

A few days ago, the National Bureau of Economic Research declared the U.S. economy has been in a recession since March. Some have responded to that announcement by saying since 6 months have already transpired, and since our average recession is typically less than 11 months, there was not a need to pass an economic stimulus package. They would say our economy at this point would likely recover on its own.

I disagree with those conclusions. That is why I think we ought to move ahead with a stimulus package. That has all the more been brought to light by virtue of the announcement made by the administration yesterday that indeed the surpluses we were counting on projecting over the next several years are not going to be there. In fact, the sad news was that we were going to be in deficit financing; that is, spend-

ing more in any one year than we have had coming in tax revenue.

How quickly things have changed. Just a few months ago we were still talking about the beneficence of projected surpluses over the course of the next 10 years and how we were going to be able to take care of a lot of the spending needs, including—this was prior to September 11—the increased defense costs that clearly were a priority, and still be able to have substantial tax cuts and preserve the integrity of the Social Security trust fund surplus so it was untouched. Therefore, that surplus was going to pay off the national debt over the course of the next decade.

Now all of that has been knocked in a cocked hat because of the slowed economy, the lessened surplus projected over the next decade, and then because we enacted a huge tax cut, a tax cut that over 10 years was in excess of \$2 trillion. The effect of that has led to the present economic malaise and economic projections so that now the administration is saying we will have deficit spending over the next 3 years.

It is with a heavy heart suddenly we have to face these new conditions. It is all the more important to have a stimulus package. Clearly, in my State, the State of Florida, we are feeling the effects big time. We are feeling the effects big time also because of September 11, the fear factor out there of people not wanting to get on an airplane. I have said many times from this desk—and I fly every weekend at least twice—I think it is safe to fly. However, there are still a lot of people who do not think it is safe to fly. As a result, they will fly for business reasons, but they will not fly for leisure and vacations.

There are parts of this country that are highly economically devastated. One such place is the capital city of the State of the Presiding Officer, Honolulu. Another is the largest tourist destination in the world, Orlando, FL.

Another is Miami, with its robust cruise tourism business. Another is Las Vegas. We can look at the list of cities that as part of their economy are inextricably entwined with travel and tourism. We can see the economic devastation. When the leisure travelers are not flying, they are not getting into the hotels; when they are not getting into the hotels, they are not going into the restaurants, they are not going into the gift shops, and they are not going to the tourist attractions. As a result, we see the economic devastation.

As wartime conditions continue, we should expect to see a continued loss of tax revenue due to the precipitous drop in travel and tourism and the overall economic activity. While every State has been affected to some degree, and travel and tourism is one of the top 3 industries in 30 of our 50 States, clearly States such as the State of the Presiding Officer and my State of Florida have been uniquely impacted due to the significant presence of the tourism and aviation industries in those States.

For example, since the end of September, the average daily unemployment claims for Florida have risen by 55 percent, translating into approximately 50,000 more Floridians applying for unemployment benefits. That is mind-boggling. That is staggering.

The unemployment rate in Florida is expected to peak at 6.1 percent next summer. The latest State forecast anticipates 120,000 lost jobs by the end of June, with an additional 115,000 jobs lost in the following fiscal year. And that is only in one State, my State of Florida.

So these statistics show that we still need help, a tremendous amount of it. As we speak today, Florida's State Legislature is meeting in the capital city of Tallahassee once again, trying to rewrite the State budget to make up for more than \$1.3 billion in lost revenue, while also trying to fund rising unemployment claims and skyrocketing assistance needs of those, the least fortunate among us.

So while it is entirely possible that we have already seen the worst of our economic drops—I certainly hope that is the case—the ramifications of these losses will be felt by Florida and many other States for many months and possibly for years to come.

There is no time to waste. We must pass a stimulus package as soon as possible. The substance of that package is clearly the very sticking point where we have substantive disagreement among lawmakers, not only in the Senate but at the other end of the hall in the House of Representatives. There is significant disagreement between that body and this body. Yet there are still many areas on which we can agree: increasing unemployment benefits, helping the unemployed maintain their health insurance, helping our States ride out a recession with fewer Federal spending cuts. At the same time, we must provide assistance to our smaller and medium-sized businesses, and to those sectors that have been hardest hit in these difficult times. Those are the things we can agree on, and we ought to come together in the stimulus package and make that happen.

Once again, I applaud the continued efforts of the majority leader and the minority leader, the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee, Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY, for sitting down again today to try to come up with an agreement. Once they come up with that agreement, then we can pass it. We can pass it before we adjourn. We can get it into law—the President has said he will sign it—and we can start to take care of our weakening economy.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CONTRACTION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, we have another potential economic devastation in the State of Florida. Lo and behold, major league baseball has voted to eliminate two teams.

The media reports suggest that four teams are on the short list of those that might be dissolved. Lo and behold, two of the four are from Florida—the Florida Marlins and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays—and the other two that are on the list of four are the Montreal Expos and the Minnesota Twins. If any of the four teams currently under consideration for elimination are dissolved—any of those four—the impact to Florida would be significant. Doing so, especially without input from the communities and the regions where the teams are based, would be a mistake.

Baseball made promises to communities in my State that were relied upon by individuals who then built businesses and other assets around the teams. Both Miami and Tampa Bay have invested millions of dollars and years of sweat equity in their teams. Hotels, restaurants, concession vendors, and other hospitality companies, already reeling from the September 11 tragedy, stand to take staggering losses if baseball fails to honor its obligations. Yet the league has completely shut them out of the process, keeping everyone in the dark. The owners got together and made these decisions. They didn't reach out to the communities and get their input.

Take, for example, eliminating the Minnesota Twins, which I suspect would have a great deal of interest to our Senators from the State of Minnesota, and the Montreal Expos, that would have considerable interest to the Senators who border that area. Let me tell you, that would be very troubling for Florida as well because both these teams have a significant minor league presence, and they have wonderful spring training facilities in the State of Florida. Their dissolution would have a direct negative impact on Lee County, which is Fort Myers and Palm Beach County, the city of West Palm Beach where the teams train and play. Many individuals and small businesses in these areas depend on the teams for their livelihood and would be irreparably harmed if the teams folded.

Florida's attorney general, my good friend, Bob Butterworth, explained the problem best when he said "the people of Florida are entitled to some straight answers about the future of major league baseball in this State." That is why I strongly support Attorney General Butterworth's decision to send investigative subpoenas to major league baseball. The people of Florida deserve to know what was said behind closed doors. I applaud the attorney general for taking action so we can get to the bottom of this problem and take whatever additional steps are necessary, including legal action to keep baseball in Florida for many years to come.

It is my understanding we are soon going to have a hearing in the Commerce Committee, on which I have the great privilege to sit as a member, on this particular subject. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. We want some answers in that committee hear-

ing. The league has an obligation to live up to its promises to the people of Florida, and I intend to work ceaselessly to ensure they do.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Senator CRAIG is here seeking recognition on the pending package that is before us. I yield whatever time he might need for that purpose.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

#### ENERGY POLICY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I thank the ranking member of the Energy Committee, the Senator from Alaska, Mr. MURKOWSKI, for allowing me this time on the floor.

First, I do want to say for all of us, and for the record, a special thanks to Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI for the phenomenal leadership effort he has put into the issue of energy and the development of a national energy policy for our country. He truly has been relentless over the last good number of years, not just starting when the lights went out in California but long before that when he and I and others who serve on that important committee in the Senate began to recognize that if we did not start reinvesting in the energy infrastructure of our country, that our Nation would at some point be in trouble.

We have watched, over the last decade, our ramping up of a dependency on foreign oil sources. We began to see a rapid use of the surplus of electrical energy that was out there a decade ago, as our country, through the decade of the 1990s, continued to grow 3 and 4 and 5 percent. No one was really reinvesting in building new generating capacity on the electrical side.

As many know, starting in the mid-1990s we began to encourage the Clinton administration to come forward with a national energy policy, one that dealt with this broad range of issues. We called it the market basket of energy: the oil side, the hydrocarbon side, the coal side, the electrical-generation side, the new technology side. We began to invest in new technologies, in wind and in solar. We put money into fuel cells.

Clearly, over the last good number of years we have advanced many of those technologies, but they are not yet mainstream. They do not yet fill up the market basket of energy, and we are still dominantly reliant on electricity generated by coal, by nuclear, and by hydro. We are still dominantly dependent on hydrocarbons, gases, and, of course, the crude that comes from around the world. We know it is well over 50 percent. We are sometimes 60-percent dependent on someone somewhere else in the world being willing to put their product into the market for us to buy.

The lights began to go out in California about a year and a half ago. It