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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, March 15, 2006)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of lights, who into chaotic darkness commanded brightness, shine into our world with the fullness of Your love. Illuminate our minds so we will be Your ambassadors.

Empower our Senators to release reconciliation forces that will bring harmony and concord.

Bless our world leaders, who agonize for strategies that will bring sanity during insane times. Help them to remember that there is no time when You will fail us and no moment when we do not need You.

Bless, also, our military people who have left home and homeland to sacrifice for freedom. Keep their families and loved ones secure in Your love.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 83, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 83) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 through 2011.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. shall be evenly divided between the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. GREGG, and the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. CONRAD.

Pending:

Specter amendment No. 3048, to increase the advance appropriations allowance in order to fund health, education and training, and low-income programs.

Reid (for Clinton/Reid) amendment No. 3115, to increase funding in fiscal year 2007 by $347 million to restore funding or provide increased funding over fiscal year 2006 for programs and policies that support the delivery of contraceptive services and medically accurate information in order to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, including Title X of the Public Health Service Act, and to restore funding or provide increased funding over fiscal year 2006 for programs that help women have healthy pregnancies and healthy children, including the Child Care Development Block Grant, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Healthy Start, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we are returning to the budget resolution for what we hope will be the final day. Chairman GREGG and Senator CONRAD will be managing the time until 10:30 a.m. At 10:30, we have an order for a series of four stacked votes. The first two are on the debt limit extension, and the last two votes are in relation to the avian flu amendments to the budget resolution. The two managers will then control the remaining time until 1:30 this afternoon when all time expires.

At 1:30 today, we begin disposing of the pending amendments and any additional amendments that are offered. This is the beginning of the so-called vote-arama. This is a difficult process. These votes will likely continue for a while today and possibly into the evening. I urge my colleagues to remain in or around the Chamber.

I was talking to the Democratic manager, and we both agreed, as does the Republican manager, that our colleagues must and we encourage them to show restraint during the day and recognize not every amendment needs to be offered. Yesterday, Senators missed some votes because they did not show up on time. The managers will be very clear in terms of how much time is allowed for each vote. We encourage Members to stay close to the Chamber so they do not miss the votes. The only way to finish the budget is to have that discipline and not to drag the votes on for 15 minutes or more. I also encourage Members to rethink whether they need to offer their amendments, as I stated earlier.

Finally, I note that we have some nominations to consider before we adjourn. On the list of nominations are two district judges we will finish. If votes are needed, then we will need to schedule those votes with the budget votes as well. However, I hope we can work on a nominations list that will be agreed to by unanimous consent.

I thank Senator GREGG and Senator CONRAD for their efforts so far. I thank everyone in advance for their patience during this budget process.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3133

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am offering an amendment on avian flu. I offered this same amendment in the committee because after testimony by Secretary Leavitt before the Committee on the Budget, we are clearly still unprepared to meet any potential pandemic.

Here is what the U.N. said on March 9:

''Bird flu is likely to spread to birds in the United States within six months and could produce an epidemic among humans 'at any time,' said a U.N. official. The prediction by David Nabarro was the first by a top global health official pinpointing when birds carrying the flu will arrive in the lower 48 States.''

He went on to say, and I hope my colleagues and their staffs are listening:

''There will be a pandemic sooner or later,'' Nabarro said. ''It could start any time. We have a virus capable of replicating inside humans. We have a virus that humans are not resistant to. We have a virus about which we don't understand everything.''

The administration's assessment of what could happen if there were a pandemic is truly sobering. I will discuss the Bush administration estimates of possible consequences from avian flu pandemic. In terms of illness, if it were severe, 90 million people could be affected in this country. The requirement for outpatient medical care: 45 million people.

Colleagues, we are totally unprepared for something of this magnitude.

Hospitalization, if it were severe, 9.9 million people in this country would require hospitalization. ICU care—that is intensive care—almost 1.5 million people would need intensive care. We do not have the ventilators, we do not have the facilities, and we do not have the beds to accommodate that level of illness. Mechanical ventilation, almost 750,000 people would require ventilation. Again, we simply are not prepared for that.

And most sobering of all are the deaths. They anticipate in this country alone almost 2 million people could die.

Right now, the death rate is running far above that. We know, for everyone who has been diagnosed with this illness, roughly half are dying. Because these viruses tend to burn out, we would not get that same effect if we have a widespread outbreak, but nonetheless the potential is truly sobering. Again, we are not prepared.

Local communities will require Federal assistance if a pandemic strikes. This is from the director of public health in Seattle in King County, WA, as quoted in the USA Today on February 21, of this year:

Our hospitals and our public health system are funded for normal levels of operation . . . but have always relied on the federal government should we have need for more ventilators, for example, in the event of an earthquake or other mass-fatality event. ''What the federal planners are not getting,'' she says, ''is that if there is a pandemic, every community will be asking for ventilators from the national stockpile at the same time.''

Clearly she has that right. We are not prepared.

The Secretary said in his testimony before the Committee on the Budget that what is different about a pandemic is that it happens everywhere at once. You do not have the option of dealing with a few hotspots.

It is very clear we need more resources. What we most need additional resources for is to develop vaccines. We also need antivirals and more resources for public health. But clearly the top priority has to be developing vaccines that can safeguard people against this illness.

Here is the summary of our situation with respect to vaccines. We have limited vaccine production capacity, relying on only three companies. The bird flu virus is mutating, making current vaccines less effective. Current vaccine production is egg based and could be threatened by bird flu itself. That is a very important point. The way they make vaccine now, they use eggs, but of course the eggs are in the bird population. This is a bird flu. The population we would currently count on to produce vaccine may itself be threatened.

Finally, we need alternative technologies, since companies have few incentives to build expensive cell-based production facilities.

Mr. President and colleagues, it is very clear we cannot rely on eggs. Currently, there is not the production of the number of eggs to produce a max vaccine in a rapid way. So we have to move to a cell-based technology. But companies have few incentives to build these expensive cell-based production facilities unless they are guaranteed there is going to be a market.

The amendment I am offering would increase funding by $5 billion to combat an avian flu pandemic and increase local preparedness. The amendment would distribute that money as follows—this is based on testimony before the committee and our own outreach to the scientific community—an additional $1.5 billion to increase the stockpile of antivirals and necessary medical supplies, including masks, gloves, ventilators, antibiotics, and ongoing medical treatment needs for chronic-care patients.

With respect to antivirals, we know by the end of this year we are slated to have some 20 million courses of treatment of Tamiflu. The administration's goal is 80 million. So we are well short of having the necessary stockpiles of the antiviral Tamiflu. Clearly, we need more resources there. Clearly, we need more resources for ventilators. We already heard public health officials say that will be one place where there will be an extreme shortage should we face a pandemic.

Next, the amendment provides $2.5 billion to accelerate vaccine research, development, and manufacturing. And finally, it provides $1 billion to increase State and local preparedness. The amendment also ensures that the additional funding is fully offset, completely paid for.

I hope very much my colleagues will support this amendment. I know there is a resistance on the other side to increasing the top-line spending number. If there were ever a time to make an investment in protecting America, this is it. We could face the tragedy of our time.

I am reading a book called ''The Great Influenza.'' It is about the 1918 flu epidemic in which they estimate 50 to 100 million people died in this world. We have not had a pandemic since. Pandemics typically occur every 50 years or so, so we are well overdue. We did have a widespread, very severe flu in 1968.

The Secretary says we are not prepared, says we are not ready. Local health officials say we are not ready. International health officials say we are not ready. I hope very much we get ready and make this investment.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator OBAMA, Senator CLINTON, Senator DURBIN, and Senator SCHUMER be added as cosponsors of this amendment.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Finally, the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR, will have an amendment that will be considered at the same time as mine. His amendment is an empty vessel. Mr. President, let me send my amendment to the desk. I am sensing they do not have a copy there.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], for himself, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER, proposes an amendment numbered 3133.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase funding to combat avian flu, increase local preparedness, and create a Manhattan Project-like effort to develop a vaccine to inoculate the U.S. Population against a pandemic by $5 billion in FY 2007 paid for by requiring tax withholding on government payments to contractors like Halliburton)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by $5,100,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by $100,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by $200,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by $200,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by $200,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by $5,100,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by $100,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by $200,000,000.
On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by $200,000,000.
On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by $200,000,000.
On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by $5,000,000,000.
On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by $1,000,000,000.
On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by $2,800,000,000.
On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by $800,000,000.
On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by $300,000,000.
On page 5, line 19, increase the amount by $4,100,000,000.
On page 5, line 21, decrease the amount by $2,700,000,000.
On page 5, line 23, decrease the amount by $600,000,000.
On page 5, line 25, decrease the amount by $100,000,000.
On page 6, line 2, increase the amount by $200,000,000.
On page 6, line 8, decrease the amount by $4,100,000,000.
On page 6, line 10, decrease the amount by $1,400,000,000.
On page 6, line 12, decrease the amount by $800,000,000.
On page 6, line 14, decrease the amount by $700,000,000.
On page 6, line 16, decrease the amount by $900,000,000.
On page 6, line 22, decrease the amount by $4,100,000,000.
On page 6, line 24, decrease the amount by $1,400,000,000.
On page 7, line 2, decrease the amount by $ 800,000,000.
On page 7, line 4, decrease the amount by $ 700,000,000.
On page 7, line 6, decrease the amount by $ 900,000,000.
On page 19, line 24, increase the amount by $5,000,000,000.
On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by $1,000,000,000.
On page 20, line 4, increase the amount by $2,800,000,000.
On page 20, line 8, increase the amount by $800,000,000.
On page 20, line 12, increase the amount by $300,000,000.
On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by $5,000,000,000.
On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by $1,000,000,000.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, on Monday, we heard Secretary Leavitt tell us that the avian flu will arrive in the United States by this fall. And if our worst fears are realized and it becomes a virus that can spread easily from human to human, the avian flu could be here within 30 days.

As Dr. Julie Greenberg, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has said, ''This is the most important threat we face right now.'' We are not talking about hundreds or thousands of lives here—we are talking millions. Millions.

The question, then, is not whether we have taken steps to prepare ourselves for the avian flu. Instead, the question is whether we have taken every imaginable and necessary precaution—whether we have done everything we possibly could do—to combat potentially the greatest global health threat in a century.

I don't believe that we have. But I know that we must. The United States cannot afford to have a Katrina-level of preparedness or a Katrina-like response to an international outbreak of avian flu. With so many warnings and so much knowledge of the threat we face, there is no excuse for failure this time around.

The first thing we need to do is increase our supply of Tamiflu and other medications. Countries such as Japan, France, England, and others have now stockpiled enough Tamiflu to cover a quarter of their populations. The United States has enough to cover just 2 percent.

If the avian flu mutates and is able to spread between humans, we will also need a new vaccine to treat the new virus. But as we saw during last year's flu season, our vaccine industry remains fragile and even the supply and distribution of something simple like a flu shot poses a challenge. This has to change.

Of course, as Secretary Leavitt has pointed out, the time it takes to develop a new vaccine means that we could be without any treatment for up to 6 months after the avian flu first breaks out. And that means that if we have an outbreak, it is imperative that our public health infrastructure be prepared to handle the crisis.

First, we need a clear chain of command. We can't be wondering who is in charge of dealing with an outbreak.

Second, we need an aggressive outreach campaign to warn and educate the American public about what to do in the event of an outbreak.

Third, it is still unclear how much assistance the Federal Government is willing to provide already cash-strapped States to strengthen their fragile health infrastructures. Although States such as Illinois are rapidly increasing their efforts to prepare, many States will need substantial assistance to buy antivirals and other supplies. And our hospitals and health professionals still don't have the capacity to care for large numbers of sick Americans.

The devastation wrought by Katrina last year has shown us that we cannot stop the forces of nature. But as the wealthiest country on Earth, we can prepare, and we can respond in a way that saves as many lives as possible.

We must do that now with the avian flu. The Conrad avian flu amendment will provide the necessary funds for Federal agencies, working with the States, to prepare for potential pandemic. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of the amendment, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, Senator BURR will be offering an amendment at the same time as mine. What he is offering is a reserve fund that is deficit neutral but has no money attached to it. But later in the process, if funding were provided, that reserve fund would provide a receptacle. That is an empty vessel. There is nothing there.

It has value. I will support Senator BURR's amendment. It has value because at least there is a receptacle, at least there is a vessel, at least there is a way of taking funds that might be provided for later. But I want colleagues to know there is no new funding provided for in the Burr amendment.

The only amendment being offered here that is going to have additional resources to meet a possible pandemic is this one. So I hope colleagues think very carefully before they cast this vote.

With that, Mr. President, I note that Senator LIEBERMAN is in the Chamber. He is next up to offer an amendment on homeland security. Senator LIEBERMAN, of course, is the ranking member of the authorizing committee. He is, I think all would acknowledge on this floor, a leading voice on the question of homeland security.

Mr. President, I ask the Senator, how much time would he require?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, in a tradition that is associated with my family, I would ask the Senator from North Dakota, how much time does he have to offer?

Mr. CONRAD. Well, could the Senator do it in 10 minutes?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Yes, indeed.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am happy to yield 10 minutes off the resolution to the Senator from Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The Senator from Connecticut is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

AMENDMENT NO. 3034

Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3034, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN], for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 3034.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To protect the American people from terrorist attacks by providing $8 billion in additional funds for homeland security government-wide, by restoring cuts to vital first responder programs in the Department of Homeland Security and Justice, by providing an additional $1.2 billion for first responders, $1.7 billion for the Coast Guard and port security, $150 million for chemical security, $1 billion for rail and transit security, $456 million for FEMA, $1 billion for health preparedness programs and $752 million for aviation security)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by $2,151,000,000.
On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by $2,700,000,000.
On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by $1,729,000,000.
On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by $1,039,000,000.
On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by $203,000,000.
On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by $2,151,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by $2,700,000,000.
On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by $1,729,000,000.
On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by $1,039,000,000.
On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by $203,000,000.
On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by $7,977,000,000.
On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by $2,151,000,000.
On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by $2,700,000,000.
On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by $1,729,000,000.
On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by $1,039,000,000.
On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by $203,000,000.
On page 16, line 21, increase the amount by $1,889,000,000.
On page 16, line 22, increase the amount by $892,000,000.
On page 17, line 1, increase the amount by $412,000,000.
On page 17, line 5, increase the amount by $252,000,000.
On page 17, line 9, increase the amount by $135,000,000.
On page 17, line 13, increase the amount by $72,000,000.
On page 17, line 22, increase the amount by $3,747,000,000.
On page 17, line 23, increase the amount by $793,000,000.
On page 18, line 3, increase the amount by $1,350,000,000.
On page 18, line 7, increase the amount by $959,000,000.
On page 18, line 11, increase the amount by $646,000,000.
On page 19, line 24, increase the amount by $1,000,000,000.
On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by $125,000,000.
On page 20, line 4, increase the amount by $540,000,000.
On page 20, line 8, increase the amount by $185,000,000.
On page 20, line 12, increase the amount by $100,000,000.
On page 20, line 16, increase the amount by $20,000,000.
On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by $1,341,000,000.
On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by $341,000,000.
On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by $398,000,000.
On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by $333,000,000.
On page 25, line 12, increase the amount by $158,000,000.
On page 25, line 16, increase the amount by $111,000,000.
On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by $7,977,000,000.
On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by $2,151,000,000.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

I thank my friend from North Dakota. I thank him for his leadership on these matters of budget and really for his steadfastness.

Mr. President, I rise today to offer this amendment to the fiscal year 2007 budget resolution to strengthen our homeland security efforts in the face of the administration's budget, which in this regard—considering the fact we are in the post-9/11 world, in a long war against Islamist terrorism—I consider the administration's budget to be shortsighted and short funded, to be ill-considered and inadequate.

In my capacity as the ranking Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee, I have worked very closely with our chair, Senator COLLINS of Maine. This year, for the third year, I have worked with my staff, with experts from outside of the Government, to construct what I believed would be a wartime budget for homeland security. A budget that would do what really needs to be done to secure the American people against an enemy that has shown it will strike us not on the battlefields of conventional war but in our neighborhoods, where we live and where we work here in the United States of America.

The total I would add to the President's budget for homeland security is $8 billion. That, of course, is a significant sum, but in the overall context of the Federal budget submitted, it is less than one-third of 1 percent of the Federal budget—and it would be used to secure our homeland against an enemy of unprecedented inhumanity and against the forces of nature, which struck us badly in Hurricane Katrina, and, unfortunately, will again.

I propose to pay for this additional funding by tightening a number of tax loopholes. Therefore, the amendment would not add to the deficit.

Of the $8 billion in additional spending I am proposing, $6.2 billion would go directly to the Department of Homeland Security. The remainder is divided between the Department of Justice for law enforcement grants and the Department of Health and Human Services for public health preparedness in the face of a potential biological attack or a pandemic.

The money would restore what I consider to be unjustified cuts for first responders who, in the war against terrorism, are also our first preventers—hundreds of thousands of eyes and ears, of equipment, to detect and stop terrorists.

It would restore cuts for emergency managers and public health officials and make needed new investments in first responder programs. It would strengthen rail, transit, port, aviation, and chemical plant security, as well as Coast Guard readiness and bioterrorism preparedness.

Let me just look at a few of the details.

We know our first responders do not have the training, equipment, and frequently even the manpower they need to do their jobs properly whenever danger strikes.

Here, shown on this chart, is first responder funding. It is unbelievable when you see it charted in this way, in the midst of the long war against terrorism, in which our homeland has been struck. And we must assume the enemy will try to strike us again.

First responder funding in fiscal year 2004 was $3.95 billion. On this chart, you see a steady line going down, to the proposal here: $1.97 billion for the firefighters, the police officers, the emergency responders we depend on to protect us.

The President's budget in this regard would cut preparedness funding by 16 percent overall. It would cut $802 million from the first responder programs—a 23-percent cut from last year and a 50-percent reduction, as shown on the graph, from fiscal year 2004.

The administration's budget would entirely eliminate the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program—totally eliminate them—in a time of war against terrorism, and slash by 78 percent the highly successful, much depended upon COPS Program, Community Oriented Policing Services Program, which has put police officers on the beat throughout America and by and large reduced the incidence of crime.

For the second year in a row, the administration is also proposing to eliminate all funding for the Metropolitan Medical Response System, which supports planning and preparedness for potential mass casualties in a catastrophe. The administration is also proposing to eliminate funding for the SAFER Program, which helps recruit, hire, and train local firefighters. The budget given to us cuts grants that State and local emergency planners rely on to help them prepare for catastrophe. The fact is, without more support, our local communities will remain unprepared. That is dangerous in this age.

My amendment would begin to rebuild that support. It would restore $1.6 billion in proposed cuts to first responder programs and add an additional $1.2 billion to help improve State and local capabilities, especially in the area of interoperable communications. That would bring the total funding for first responders to $4.1 billion. Can we afford it? Honestly, we cannot afford not to afford it.

We would also restore funding for the programs I have talked about that will be cut in the Justice Department.

What about port security, because this is a comprehensive homeland security budget proposal? Moving on to port security, perhaps the silver lining of the Dubai Ports World disagreement is greater public recognition of the urgent need for port security. Ninety-five percent of all of the goods coming into America flow through our ports. A terrorism attack at a port would cause economic havoc, let alone human loss. And experts, of course, worry that weapons of mass destruction could be smuggled into this country in a shipping container.

We, therefore, must invest strategically in our defense, which is why this amendment would add an additional $1.7 billion for port security and for the Coast Guard, which performed so admirably in response to Hurricane Katrina but still does not have the capitalized, updated equipment it needs to do the job—enormous job—we are asking it to do.

On chemical security, we know too many facilities remain vulnerable and

that an attack on one near a high-population center could have the same effect as a weapon of mass destruction. The administration's proposal is only $10 million. It is inadequate when compared with the $102 million the Coast Guard spent in 2005 and the $131 million it will spend in 2006 to protect chemical facilities at ports.

We face, as Senator CONRAD has said, the threat and danger of bioterrorism and bioterrorist attacks and pandemics, and yet inadequate funding is provided. Thus, my amendment would increase the money given to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, funding for State and local bioterrorism programs by $500 million and add another $500 million to the Health Resources and Services Administration bioterrorism program.

We have to absorb the painful dual lessons of September 11, 2001, and of August 29, 2005, the day Katrina struck. Our enemies are ruthless and choose to fight us at points of vulnerability. That is why we have to close those vulnerabilities. Nature will strike in unpredictable ways year after year. Yet so much of our national homeland security structure continues to have gaps. There is no cheap way to provide for the common defense, our constitutional responsibility. We have the best military in the world, and we have it because we have invested in it. We have the best personnel to carry out the protection of our homeland. We will never have the homeland defense we need unless we are prepared to spend for it. There is no more urgent need the American people have.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I appreciate the extraordinary commitment of the Senator from Connecticut to national defense, to a responsible policy in fighting terrorism. He is clearly one of the leaders in the Senate and the Nation on the issue of how we should protect ourselves as a nation. I respect him immensely. I admire him. It is good to have his voice on the issues of foreign policy and international terrorism and how we fight it.

On this issue, however, I respectfully disagree relative to the need for these additional dollars at this time. In this budget, we have robustly funded the fight on terrorism. The defense budget will be increased in the core budget by $30 billion. A lot of that goes toward fighting terrorism. We have set aside $90 billion of additional money, the purpose of which is to fight the war on terrorism. That is $40 billion more than the administration asked for. In addition, within those funds we have dedicated an additional $4 billion specifically to the issue of port security and border security. Quite honestly, as chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction over port security and border security, that is probably more money than those agencies can handle in 1 year. We will have to be careful to be sure that that money is spent effectively and not pushed out the door in purchasing blue lights and whistles. We want to make sure it purchases real assets and adds real manpower that will assist us in the war on terrorism. We have made a huge commitment in this budget to the issue of fighting terrorism.

The Senator from Connecticut correctly points out that first responder funds are down in this budget. That is a decision that has been made because of the fact there was so much first responder money that came so quickly, it simply hasn't been spent effectively yet. There was $13 billion that we have put into first responders across the country. That is a huge number, so large, in fact, that $5.5 billion of it, which has already been appropriated, which is sitting there, has not been spent, going back to 2004. There is literally $5.5 billion sitting in the pipeline that first responder groups have not spent, in part because State planning has not caught up to adequately meet the need for using the available funding. As soon as they are, those dollars will go out. As soon as that pipeline of $5.5 billion starts to get drawn down—remember, we are adding another several billion dollars on top of it in this bill—we are going to refill that pipeline to make sure that first responder funding is adequate.

It is not an issue of lack of dollars. It is an issue of lack of programmatic and systematic infrastructure, to a large degree—and planning, to a large degree. You could put another $40 billion or $8 billion or whatever billion on top of this, and you would still get little improvement in the amount of money flowing out to first responders because the necessity of having the money flow in a way that actually produces programmatic results has not been resolved yet.

It should not be our purpose as the Federal Government to be hiring people for local police forces and local first responder teams. What this money is supposed to be used for primarily is to give them the support so they have the necessary interoperability equipment, the necessary tactical equipment, and the necessary training to be effective as first responders. We should not be taking Federal first responder dollars and replacing local dollars that are already being used for the purposes of putting people on the street. States are making progress. As they come at us, we will put more money out there.

In addition, in the appropriating process we have taken the view, which is a little different than the authorizing committee, that risk should be where the money goes first. If a community has a high likelihood of risk from a terrorist attack, that community should be the place where we put the dollars. This has actually worked to the disadvantage of the State of New Hampshire. But my view is strong that these dollars, which are being used to basically upgrade the capacity of first responders to handle a terrorist attack, should go first to those places most likely to be on the front lines. We know where those places are. They know who they are. That is why we have basically funded it in that manner.

That is where we stand today. Very simply stated, there is an extremely robust commitment to fighting the war on terrorism in this bill: a $30 billion increase in defense spending; $90 billion in a separate budgeting process for fighting the war on terror, $40 billion more than the President asked for; $4 billion of new funds directed right at border security and port security; $2.3 billion directed right at avian flu and the purchasing of necessary supplies and antitoxins and hopefully vaccines, to address that issue. In the pipeline already from prior appropriations, there is $5.5 billion of funds out of the $13 billion that has been appropriated which is available for first responders from prior appropriations onto which we will put another chunk of money here.

The issue is not dollars in almost all these accounts. It is not dollars in terms of this budget. In terms of the President's budget, there may be a difference of opinion, but in terms of this budget the issue is not dollars. The issue is getting those dollars out effectively.

I oppose this amendment. I would have opposed it, anyway, because it basically raises taxes and spends money and breaks the caps. I think that is bad fiscal policy. I also oppose it on substance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Rhode Island for his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3074

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3074.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. REED], for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BAYH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. JOHNSON, proposes an amendment numbered 3074.

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program by $3,318,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, increasing the funds available to carry out that program to the fully authorized level of $5,100,000,000, to be paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by $2,489,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by $763,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by $66,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by $2,489,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by $763,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by $66,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by $3,318,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by $2,489,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by $763,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by $66,000,000.

On page 21, line 24, increase the amount by $3,318,000,000.

On page 21, line 25, increase the amount by $2,489,000,000.

On page 22, line 4, increase the amount by $763,000,000.

On page 22, line 8, increase the amount by $66,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by $3,318,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by $2,489,000,000.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, my amendment is straightforward. It would increase funding for the LIHEAP program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, by $3.318 billion. It is paid for fully by the closing of corporate tax loopholes and is cosponsored by Senators KENNEDY, KERRY, CLINTON, LIEBERMAN, ROCKEFELLER, DORGAN, LEVIN, DAYTON, SCHUMER, KOHL, BAYH, JOHNSON, LEAHY, MENENDEZ, and HARKIN.

The President's budget request and the level of funding assumed in this budget resolution for LIHEAP is $1.782 billion. That represents a $379 million cut from the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. Last week we were struggling to pass an additional $1 billion. The question before us is, are we going to accept this inadequate funding knowing full well it is inadequate today. I hope we don't do that. My amendment, the increase of $3.318 billion, would reach the authorized level of $5.1 billion set by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. On five separate occasions during the course of the debate over LIHEAP in the last 6 months, the majority of the Senate has voted for this full funding level. I call upon all of those Members to join me today to ensure we have full funding. We understand this year we are short of money. The President's budget starts us off with even less.

This year we benefited from unusually warm temperatures. I don't think anyone would bet that next winter's heating season will be as mild and as forgiving as this season's. With higher energy prices—and we know they are going up—with probably lower temperatures, we are going to be in a very serious position unless we adopt this amendment.

In the course of the debate about LIHEAP, many of our colleagues from warmer States pointed out that they are not getting as much as they should. If we get to the $5.1 billion level, this will truly be a national program. Warmer weather States will have the money in the hot season where they need air conditioning to help low-income people. I hope we can do so. For example, Alabama will receive $15 million from the block grant formula under the President's budget. It would receive $87.2 million under my amendment, a 479-percent increase, and so on throughout the country.

I hope we can pass this amendment. I hope we can have the foresight to recognize that we can't start off in the hole. We cannot expect warm temperatures this next heating season. We have to do more for the most vulnerable.

I yield whatever remaining time I have back to the Senator from North Dakota.

AMENDMENT NO. 3136

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Senator from Rhode Island for his amendment. I thank him also for his courtesy and graciousness.

The situation we have is, I have very few minutes left this morning. We don't have another Senator. I have asked other Senators to come to the floor. While we are waiting, I will do my final amendment. I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] proposes an amendment numbered 3136.

Mr. CONRAD. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a reserve fund for bold energy legislation that is deficit neutral)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC.____. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR ENERGY LEGISLATION.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that would reduce our nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy, expand production and use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, promote renewable energy development, improve electricity transmission, encourage responsible development of domestic oil and natural gas resources, and reward conservation and efficiency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the total of the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, in many ways this may be one of the most important amendments we offer on our side. I say that because if I look across the horizon at the challenges facing America, energy dependence would be right at the top of the list.

In his State of the Union Message, the President said:

[W]e have a serious problem: America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world.

I think the President has that exactly right.

We can see in this chart that imports now account for 60 percent of total U.S. consumption; that is, of the oil that we are consuming, 60 percent of it is imported. That creates a vulnerability for America. This dependence on imported energy is dramatically adding to our record trade deficit; $266 billion of the trade deficit over the last year is due to imported petroleum products. We ran a trade deficit during that period of about $700 billion. More than a third of it is due to our reliance on foreign energy.

That represents over a third of the total trade deficit. The President made very strong statements in the State of the Union about the need to reduce our dependence, reduce our vulnerability. But if you look at his budget, you see something quite different: the clean coal power initiative, cut 90 percent; weatherization assistance grants to improve conservation of energy in homes reduced almost a third; electricity delivery and reliability, cut 23 percent; fossil energy R&D, cut 21 percent.

Mr. President, several weeks ago, President Bush had a small group of Senators to the White House to talk about energy. I told him I was going to be introducing legislation that would provide substantial incentives to do what Brazil did. It is very instructive to look back over the last 30 years. Thirty years ago, Brazil was 80 percent dependent on foreign energy. They reduced that to less than 10 percent today. If we look at our story, it is just the flip. Back in the 1970s, we were 35 percent dependent upon foreign energy; today it is 60 percent.

I think the question presents itself: What did Brazil do? Brazil very aggressively promoted biodiesel, ethanol, and flexible fuel vehicles. In fact, the vast majority of their vehicle fleet in Brazil are now flex fuel vehicles. They have very aggressively promoted ethanol and biodiesel. We should do the same. Those are the key components of the energy plan I will be presenting to our colleagues—aggressive promotion of biodiesel and ethanol, alternative fuel vehicles, wind energy, and coal-to-liquid fuel technology and energy efficiency in conservation.

Mr. President, my energy reserve fund creates a deficit-neutral reserve fund for bold and balanced energy legislation that reduces our Nation's dependence upon foreign sources of energy, expands the production and use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, promotes renewable energy development, encourages responsible development of oil and natural gas resources right here in America, and rewards conservation and efficiency.

Mr. President, this is a deficit-neutral reserve fund. Only if we find a way to pay for this initiative will it be able to go forward. My own view is that this is such a high priority for our country and raised, I think, to national attention by the President in his State of

the Union, but we don't have a budget to match bold words. We need bold initiatives to match bold words, to really do something to reduce our dependence. It makes us vulnerable. It is weakening our economy.

I said to the President: What a difference it could make. Would it not be wonderful if the President could wake up and instead of turning to the Middle East for oil, he could look to the Midwest of our own country where we could help grow our way out of this crisis by growing the feedstock that could produce biodiesel and ethanol, soybeans, corn, and canola? We are about to build in North Dakota the biggest biodiesel plant in North America. That is going to help us wean ourselves from this ongoing dependence upon foreign energy. I hope very much my colleagues will support this amendment.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The Legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Who yields time?

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I yield 4 minutes to the Senator from New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I will soon offer an amendment to remove the airline passenger tax increase from this budget. It is fundamentally unfair for the President to raise taxes on everyday families as he doles out massive tax cuts to the wealthy.

Hidden among the thousands of pages in this legislation is a proposal to double the minimum amount that airline passengers pay as a security tax. President Bush wants to increase this tax from $2.50 per flight to $5 per flight. That is a 100-percent tax increase.

The impact on a family of four traveling roundtrip on nonstop flights is illustrated by the chart that we have here. An increase in security tax for a family of four traveling roundtrip on nonstop flights, typically, if it is $20 now, is going to be $40 obviously. That is quite a burden.

The traveling public is already too heavily taxed. Air travelers pay an enormous amount of Federal taxes on every airline ticket—nearly 20 percent of the base fare price now. For example, the tax on the average domestic roundtrip flight of $230 is $45. That is a tax rate of almost 20 percent.

Air travelers are taxed every time they turn around. They pay the Federal excise tax—on top of the Federal segment tax, on top of the passenger facility charge, on top of the security tax. Now the President wants to double the security tax.

To make matters worse, this tax increase will hit families the hardest. Sixty-three percent of the domestic air trips in this country in 2004 were taken for personal purposes, including vacations and visits to families and loved ones.

I am one of the strongest advocates for transportation security resources for our country, but we have to provide these necessary resources by spreading the tax burdens across this country fairly and not targeting everyday Americans while special interests raid the Federal Treasury.

I also want to point out to my colleagues that this amendment is offset by closing abusive tax shelters. So when we look at this, if the airlines don't pass along this tax increase to the average family, they themselves will have to experience further losses. There was $10 billion in losses in 2005 by the aviation industry. That is on top of $32 billion from 2001 to 2004. There were 150,000 jobs lost since 9/11. They just cannot handle it.

So I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and say no to the Bush airline passenger tax increases, keeping in mind that those tax increases are put upon the average family to give the wealthiest among us huge tax breaks. It is unfair and it ought not to be permitted. I urge you in this instance to vote no on further tax increases for the average American family.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New Jersey for accommodating the schedule of his colleagues by coming this morning and offering his amendment. Next in the queue is Senator BURR with an amendment on avian flu.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If the Senator will suspend, the Chair advises that the Senator from New Jersey did not send up an amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 3137

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Yes. We neglected to do the most important part of it. I was overcome by the speech, Mr. President.

I send the amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] proposes an amendment numbered 3137.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To eliminate the President's proposed tax increase on American airline passengers in fiscal year 2007 and to provide adequate funding for commercial aviation security and to offset these costs by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by $1,230,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by $1,230,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by $1,230,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by $1,230,000;000.

On page 16, line 21, increase the amount by $1,230,000,000.

On page 16, line 22, increase the amount by $1,230,000,000.

On page 53 , line 1, increase the amount by $1,230,000,000.

On page 53 , line 2, increase the amount by $1,230,000,000.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set the pending amendment aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3114

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I send an amendment No. 3114 to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. BURR] proposes an amendment numbered 3114.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide for the establishment of a reserve fund concerning pandemic influenza preparedness planning)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. RESERVE FUND FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

If the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate reports a bill or joint resolution, or if an amendment is offered thereto, or if a conference report is submitted thereon, that—

(1) rebuilds the vaccine industry in the United States which has shrunk from over 25 to less than 5 companies;

(2) improves the United States capacity to produce life-saving pandemic influenza vaccines and antivirals;

(3) ensures adequate funding for advanced development and acquisition of needed medical countermeasures for biodefense and pandemic influenza protection;

(4) enhances the Strategic National Stockpile of pandemic influenza vaccines, antivirals, and other medical products;

(5) strengthens the Federal, State, and local public health infrastructure to effectively respond to a pandemic influenza outbreak;

(6) increases the domestic and international surveillance and outbreak containment capabilities; and

(7) improves public awareness and education of pandemic influenza preparedness planning;

assuming that the Committee is within its allocation as provided under section 302 (a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget may make the appropriate adjustments in allocations and aggregates to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal years 2007 and for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise on the Senate floor today to not only offer

this amendment and talk about it, but to speak on an amendment of another Member of the Senate, an amendment that also focuses on the avian flu.

Our country faces threats, some of which we know and some of which we don't know today. One real threat is the threat of pandemic bird flu. The President of the United States was ahead of the curve on this with a proposal to the Congress of over $7 billion for advanced development of vaccines, for the preparation the country needs to go through, and for the stockpiles of antivirals and countermeasures.

The fact is that Congress has responded to his request. This year the budget resolution highlights the fact that the President's request of $2.3 billion of taxpayers' money is in this budget resolution.

My colleague from North Dakota, for whom I have a tremendous amount of respect and who has helped, along with Senator GREGG, to move this budget resolution through this body, has asked we increase that amount by $5 billion. If for 1 minute I thought $5 billion would make America safer, I would be on the floor as a cosponsor of that amendment. But the reality is, we are at a point where we are absorbing all the money we can, given where we are in this process.

I just left a hearing with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. My direct question to him was: The President's budget asked for $2.3 billion. Is that sufficient for 2007?

He looked at me and said: Senator, where we are in the development of vaccines, where we are in our need for stockpiles, that amount fulfills everything we can do in preparation.

So I urge my colleagues not to support the amendment for an additional $5 billion of taxpayers' money to potentially go into a black hole. I remind my colleagues that the way this is funded is to raise taxes on the American people. We have used tax loopholes for corporations to fund many items suggested in amendments on this floor. The fact is, once again, the American people realize this is a covert way of raising taxes on them.

My amendment does something very simple. It creates a reserve fund. It has been described as hollow because it has no money. I believe the American people demand that we bring fiscal responsibility to this institution, to the Congress of the United States. I don't want to tie the hands of individuals within the agencies if they see a need for something, but the creation of this reserve fund allows them to do it in a budget-neutral way.

I believe this will be overwhelmingly supported because, in fact, it doesn't spend any new money, but it provides the flexibility and authority to those who are charged with addressing this threat.

The amendment establishes a reserve fund, and that can help to rebuild our domestic vaccine industry, support advanced development and acquisition of needed drugs and vaccines, strengthen the public health infrastructure, and increase surveillance and outbreak containment.

We are at a point in this Congress where we have the opportunity to reauthorize the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act, and we are considering legislation on advanced development of vaccines and countermeasures against chemical, biological, or radiological and natural threats. There are many issues that we have to decide exactly how we are going to handle. But to throw money at them is, in fact, not the answer today.

Those who are charged with the responsibility of making sure this country is prepared, in fact, have sufficient funding today. I urge my colleagues to vote against the Conrad amendment, to vote for the Burr amendment, and to make sure this administration is able to carry out what has been a well-planned preparation for a known threat to this country and, I might add, to the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask that 10 minutes of the chairman's time be yielded to me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the chairman very much. We have been trying to distribute time so we can most efficiently use time on the floor. I yield 3½ minutes to the Senator from Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3081

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from North Dakota. I call up amendment No. 3081 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. SALAZAR], for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment numbered 3081.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To fully fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. Adds $152 million to Function 800 (General Government) for PILT. Paid for by closing $152 million in corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by $152,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by $152,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by $152,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by $152,000,000.

On page 25, line 24, increase the amount by $152,000,000.

On page 25, line 25, increase the amount by $152,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by $152,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by $152,000,000.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, this amendment aims to fully fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program for our country. It is an issue of vital importance to rural America. I am pleased to be joined in this effort today by Senator BINGAMAN and Senator LEAHY who are cosponsors of this amendment.

As I have said often on this floor before, rural America continues to wither on the vine. I will continue to come to this floor and sound the alarm of the plight of rural America because I am absolutely certain it doesn't have to be this way.

The heartland of this country is a vast reservoir of American potential and strength, and the values, common sense, perseverance, and work ethic embodied in the 50 million people who live in rural America are national treasures in and of themselves.

These people are also the stewards of our many public lands, and they deserve support in that effort. That is where PILT comes in. Created in 1976, PILT compensates local government for the presence of nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries, as well as the associated costs of providing work, such as road work and law enforcement, to visitors on those lands.

Over the years, inflation has taken its toll. Repeatedly underfunding the PILT Program has also sent precisely the wrong message to rural America. Full PILT funding for fiscal year 2007 will likely be close to $350 million, but the President's budget for PILT was reduced by $38 million, or 16 percent, from where it was last year.

This is not just about my State of Colorado where some counties are owned by the Federal Government to the extent of 95 percent; it is about governments in at least 49 of our States where there are significant public land holdings within those States.

This amendment is fully offset by tax loophole closures. Some colleagues have approached me about alternatives, and I will work with them to explore other ideas in terms of funding alternatives.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this modest, commonsense amendment. When I travel through the rural counties of Colorado, I hear the voices of proud, hard-working rural Americans who feel neglected by Washington. Let's take an opportunity in a very small way in this budget resolution to send a different signal that we in Washington care about rural America.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Colorado. This is an important amendment, certainly an important amendment to Western

States such as ours that all too often are shortchanged in terms of what they get in lieu of taxes where the Federal Government owns vast tracts of land and then is not a good neighbor, doesn't pay its fair share of the tab.

I thank the Senator from Colorado for his excellent amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Who yields time?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I ask that Senator BAYH be added as a cosponsor to my avian flu amendment No. 3133.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I see the Senator from Maryland is now on the floor. I say to the Senator from Maryland, I now have 6 minutes left, and I am wondering if I could give 4 minutes to the Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Yes, that would be fine.

Mr. CONRAD. I have to give some time to Senator BAUCUS before the debt limit vote. So I yield 4 minutes to the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the Senator. Does that leave the Senator with enough time for his other purposes?

Mr. CONRAD. I am sure Senator GREGG and I will be able to work it out.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I thank the Senator very much.

AMENDMENT NO. 3103

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I offer amendment No. 3103.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. SARBANES], for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. REED, proposes an amendment numbered 3103.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To restore funding for the civil works programs of the Corps of Engineers, the Federal Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund, the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal conservation programs, and other natural resource needs, through an offset achieved by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by $1,718,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by $699,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by $320,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by $116,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by $58,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, decrease the amount by $1,718,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, decrease the amount by $699,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, decrease the amount by $320,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, decrease the amount by $116,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, decrease the amount by $58,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by $2,912,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by $1,718,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by $699,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by $320,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by $116,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by $58,000,000.

On page 13, line 21, increase the amount by $2,912,000,000.

On page 13, line 22, increase the amount by $1,718,000,000.

On page 14, line 1, increase the amount by $699,000,000.

On page 14, line 5, increase the amount by $320,000,000.

On page 14, line 9, increase the amount by $116,000,000.

On page 14, line 13, increase the amount by $58,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by $2,912,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by $1,718,000,000.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, this amendment is to restore funding for function 300 Natural Resources and Environment, and for other purposes. I ask unanimous consent that Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator REED of Rhode Island be added as cosponsors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SARBANES. If the Chair would tell me when 1 minute is left on my time, I would be most appreciative.

Madam President, the purpose of this amendment is to restore funding for a number of important environmental programs under function 300. The President's budget request and the chairman's mark on the resolution cut funding for water resources, conservation and land management, recreational resources, pollution control and abatement, and other natural resources and environmental activities by nearly $3 billion from the baseline, or almost 10 percent. This amendment would seek to add $2.9 billion to bring the function 300 total back up to baseline. It is offset with revenues from the closing of corporate tax loopholes.

We have a list of possibilities, many of which have passed the Senate before and have been strongly supported by very large majorities in this body. Let me just give a few examples of the kinds of programs we are trying to at least provide some additional support for, although it falls short of what the need is; but we are trying to get back to baseline.

The Army Corps of Engineers civil works program, flood control, navigation, storm protection, environmental restoration—I hardly need, in the aftermath of Katrina, to emphasize the importance of such programs. The EPA budget has been sharply cut, including nearly $200 million from the clean water State revolving loan fund, which is now in this budget at the lowest funding level ever for clean water infrastructure. It has been cut by nearly 50 percent from the 2004 level because there has been a steady decline, and, of course, this impacts every State's and every community's ability to upgrade their waste water infrastructure and meet Clean Water Act requirements.

The National Park Service is being cut. Our National Parks have a desperate need for funding in order to carry out their activities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, the National Park Service is falling well short of what they need in order to sustain the park system. NOAA is being cut in this budget, including the National Marine Fisheries Service. There is a lot of emphasis on our oceans. Two commissions have studied it. Yet the Oceans Commission says we are falling well short of any real commitment there. The NOAA budget is cut, the Fish and Wildlife Service budget, and the Forest Service. This amendment seeks to at least bring back this funding to function 300 for all of these very important environmental and natural resource problems to baseline, to current funding levels.

I very much hope my colleagues will support this amendment and contribute to protecting the environment and health of our Nation's citizens, helping to ensure that we have clean water and that we breathe clean air.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I yield 2½ minutes to Senator DORGAN from North Dakota.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I support Senator SARBANES' effort to restore funding for our agencies and programs directed at natural resource conservation and management and some of our fundamental environmental responsibilities. The programs and agencies include the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the National Park Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, and others. I do believe that we must meet our stewardship responsibilities and the President's budget simply doesn't cut it.

I do, however, want to flag a problem related to the Army Corps of Engineers. It is a problem that cripples the Corps: The minute its budget arrives on our doorsteps, Members of Congress scramble for Corps earmarks. We must move away from this earmarking and focus on national priorities. I will continue working to change the way this agency operates.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I am going to be offering an amendment. I have noticed an amendment dealing with Indian program funding. I think most who understand these issues understand that we have a bona fide crisis in Indian health care, Indian housing, and Indian education. We have had hearings. I have had hearings in my State, and we have had hearings in the Indian Affairs Committee, and we have to address these issues. The issue of Indian health care is not an optional issue. When there is a young child on an Indian reservation or an elder on an Indian reservation who is sick, they need health care.

This is interesting. We have trust responsibility for health care for a couple of groups of Americans. One is Federal prisoners. If they are incarcerated, we have a responsibility to Federal prisoners for their health care. We also have trust responsibility for health care for American Indians. That is our trust responsibility. We spend nearly twice as much—twice as much—per person to provide health care for Federal prisoners as we do for American Indians. That is wrong.

Housing: We have a bona fide crisis in housing. In many cases on many of America's Indian reservations we have people living in Third World conditions.

Education: Do we really want a young child who is 6 or 8 years old to be walking through the doorway of a grade school and receiving an education that is much less of an education than other children are simply because we don't have the money? Shouldn't these young Indian children be given the opportunity for a good education? I think with respect to education, the GAO report shows quite clearly that facilities in BIA schools are inferior to other schools.

My point is this: When we take a look at our priorities, what is important, what we should be doing, we see that we have Americans living in Third World conditions on many of these Indian reservations. We have a crisis in health care, in education and housing, and we ought to do something about it. You can't go to these places and look at their health care system or look at their schools or look at people living in substandard housing and believe that it is not a priority for this Congress to meet its responsibilities.

I have offered this legislation before in the form of an amendment. I do so again today. I have a number of cosponsors I would like to add for the RECORD.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, what is the time situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire controls 7 minutes.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, although I don't agree with him, I yield 3½ minutes to the Senator from Montana.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, might I, with the indulgence of my colleagues, simply read the cosponsors? They are Senators CANTWELL, MURRAY, BINGAMAN, and JOHNSON are added as cosponsors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will suspend. The amendment has not yet been offered.

The Senator from Montana is recognized.

DEBT LIMIT EXTENSION

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I am speaking on an amendment I have offered to the debt limit. This amendment would simply require the Treasury Department to report on the economic and security implications of our debt to foreigners. Massive budget deficits are forcing America to borrow heavily. Last year, foreigners bought 96 percent of the Treasury bills that our Government sold to finance our debt—96 percent. That is an astounding statistic. The debt purchased last year, almost all of it, was purchased by foreigners, 96 percent.

Foreigners are becoming our bankers. America is becoming a debtor to foreign powers.

I think we need to understand this change. This amendment asks the Treasury to investigate what the full cost of our indebtedness will be, in higher interest rates, the value of a dollar, lower economic growth, less power to negotiate trade agreements, and diminished national security. We should let taxpayers know how big the cost of this foreign debt really is. This amendment will help to get the answers.

Some will make breathless arguments that passing this amendment will endanger the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. I say that is hogwash. If the Senate passes this amendment, the House of Representatives could pass it and have the bill on the President's desk before suppertime, on the President's desk this evening.

The real reason some are opposing this amendment is to save the House of Representatives from having to vote on the debt limit even once—to save the House of Representatives, to save those folks on the other side of the body, on the other side of the Capitol, from having to vote on the debt limit. That is really what is going on here. I think if Senators vote on the debt limit, certainly House Members should vote on the debt limit, too. That is an embarrassingly poor reason to vote against a study that would help protect America's economic and security interests.

Last year, foreigners bought 96 percent of the Treasury bills that our Government sold—actually 96 percent—just to remind everybody. I therefore urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment to help find out what our foreign debt really means for America.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I know the chairman of the Finance Committee is coming over, and he may want to speak to this issue, but the time may lapse before he gets here so let me make this point: The study which the Senator is asking for could occur and would occur—and I can't speak for the chairman of the Finance Committee, but I would certainly be willing to sign the letter, and I suspect the chairman would, too. But simply writing the letter down there from the committees of jurisdiction—I don't happen to be a committee of jurisdiction, although it is an interesting issue—and then the chairman and the ranking member could get the study.

The reason this amendment is being put on this bill is to try to send it back to the House to delay the process so that the debt ceiling ends up with some political votes somewhere along the line. That is just gamesmanship and there is no need for it.

We should have this amendment taken off this bill. If there is a desire for this information, which we could certainly obtain rather easily by sending a letter demanding that they do the study, and then have GAO do the study—a little independence on the study might even be good—do a joint task force and get the information. So the amendment really isn't necessary at all.

So I agree with what I think is the leadership's position on this side, that this amendment is just dilatory and will end up delaying the debt ceiling legislation, which is a mistake. That is why it is opposed.

Has all my time expired?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I see the Democratic leader, and I will yield back my time and let the Democratic leader take leader time.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I will use leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, President Thomas Jefferson said:

> I place economy among the first and most important government virtues, and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared.

That was President Thomas Jefferson.

Today the Senate is considering a bill to increase the Nation's debt by $781 billion. If adopted, it would be the fourth such increase in the 5 years this administration has been in office. I will be opposing this latest request, and I hope that people on both sides of the aisle will do the same.

Any objective analysis of our country's fiscal history would have to conclude this administration and this rubberstamping Republican Congress are the most fiscally irresponsible in the history of our country. In fact, no other President or Congress even comes close. When this administration came to office, the Federal Government was running large annual budget surpluses that were projected to continue as far as the eye could see. These projected surpluses were so large that the Congressional Budget Office estimated the Federal Government would pay off all its publicly held debt by the year 2009. In fact, Alan Greenspan, then the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and other economists expressed concern that these surpluses would be so huge they risked unsettling the financial markets.

Because of the reckless fiscal policies of this President and the Republican-controlled Congress, 2009 will be a year to recognize President Bush's multi-trillion-dollar red-ink special. Over the past 5 years, rather than running record surpluses and reducing record amounts of debt, our Nation suffered record deficits and debt increases. In fact, when it comes to deficits, this President owns all the records. The three largest deficits in our Nation's history have all occurred under this administration's watch. The deterioration of the Federal Government's finances is the direct result of the misguided priorities of this administration and this rubberstamping Republican Congress.

These deficits have resulted in an unprecedented and dangerous borrowing spree. The total debt during this spree has grown by trillions of dollars. President Abraham Lincoln said:

> As an individual who undertakes to live by borrowing soon finds his original means devoured by interest and next no one left to borrow from, so must it be with government.

O, if the Republican President and Republican-dominated Congress had followed the advice of Abraham Lincoln.

The legislation on the floor today will push the Nation's borrowing limit to nearly $9 trillion. Compounding matters, the President's most recent budget—much of which Senate Republicans have placed before the Senate this week—would make matters substantially worse, leading to $12 trillion debt by 2011, just as the first wave of baby boomers is beginning to retire.

Not only is debt exploding at the worst possible time, increasingly we are borrowing from foreign lenders. Since this administration took office, U.S. debt financed by foreigners has more than doubled, increasing by well over $1 trillion. That is more foreign-held debt in 5 years than the Nation accumulated in the first 224 years of this Republic. By contrast, during the last 3 years of the Clinton administration, we paid off hundreds of billions of dollars of debt, including $200 billion in debt to foreign lenders.

Given the explosion of debt in recent years, it is long past time for Washington to change the course and adopt a new fiscal policy. After all, the future of our economy and our Nation is at stake. The Comptroller General of the United States, David Walker, told the Senate Budget Committee recently:

> Continuing on this unsustainable fiscal path will gradually erode, if not suddenly damage, our economy, our standard of living and ultimately our national security.

If my Republican friends believe that increasing our debt by almost $800 billion today, and more than $3 trillion dollars over the last 5 years, is the right thing to do, they should be upfront about it. They should explain why they believe more debt is good for our economy. How can the Republican majority and this Congress explain to their constituents that trillions of dollars of new debt is good for our economy? How can they explain that they think it is fair to force our children, our grandchildren, and our great grandchildren to finance this debt through higher taxes? That is what will have to happen. Why is it right to increase this Nation's dependence on foreign creditors? They should explain this.

Maybe they can convince the public they are right. I doubt it, because most Americans know that increasing the debt is the last thing we should be doing. After all, I repeat, the baby boomers are about to retire. Under the circumstances, any credible economist would tell you we should be reducing debt, not increasing it.

Again, on debt—Thomas Jefferson. These are his words:

> And to preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty—or profusion and servitude.

That was President Thomas Jefferson.

Democrats will not be making arguments to support this legislation which will weaken our country. The President often speaks of personal responsibility. In a speech before African-American leaders earlier in his administration, the President stated that a President is judged not by the words he speaks but by the work he leaves behind. By that benchmark, the President and this Republican-controlled Congress will not be judged kindly with respect to the stewardship of our Nation's finances.

We are being asked to do what should not be asked of us, to increase the debt to almost $9 trillion. I hope everyone walking down to these desks today will understand what they are doing, what they are doing to our country. On this side of the aisle, we know.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

AMENDMENT NO. 3102

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, let me ask for consideration of amendment 3102, as I had previously filed. That is the legislation I described previously. Senators CANTWELL, MURRAY, BINGAMAN, and JOHNSON join me in proposing this amendment as cosponsors. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

> The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BINGAMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 3102.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

> (Purpose: To increase funding by $1 billion for various tribal programs and provide necessary additional funding based on recommendations from Indian country, by closing corporate loopholes.)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by $285,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by $197,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by $230,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by $263,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by $302,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by $285,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by $197,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by $230,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by $263,000,000.

On page 4: line 6, increase the amount by $302,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by $1,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by $299,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by $385,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by $154,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by $126,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by $15,000,000.

On page 5, line 19, decrease the amount by $14,000,000.

On page 5, line 21, decrease the amount by $188,000,000.

On page 5, line 23, increase the amount by $76,000,000.

On page 5, line 25, increase the amount by $137,000,000.

On page 6, line 2, increase the amount by $287,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, increase the amount by $14,000,000.

On page 6, line 10, increase the amount by $202,000,000.

On page 6, line 12, increase the amount by $126,000,000.

On page 6, line 14, decrease the amount by $11,000,000.

On page 6, line 16, decrease the amount by $298,000,000.
On page 6, line 22, increase the amount by $14,000,000.
On page 6, line 24, increase the amount by $202,000,000.
On page 7, line 2, increase the amount by $126,000,000.
On page 7, line 4, decrease the amount by $11,000,000.
On page 7, line 6, decrease the amount by $298,000,000.
On page 13, line 21, increase the amount by $25,000,000.
On page 13, line 22, increase the amount by $13,000,000.
On page 14, line 1, increase the amount by $8,000,000.
On page 14, line 5, increase the amount by $4,000,000.
On page 14, line 9, increase the amount by $1,000,000.
On page 17, line 22, increase the amount by $120,000,000.
On page 17, line 23, increase the amount by $29,000,000.
On page 18, line 3, increase the amount by $33,000,000.
On page 18, line 7, increase the amount by $27,000,000.
On page 18, line 11, increase the amount by $18,000,000.
On page 18, line 15, increase the amount by $2,000,000.
On page 18, line 24, increase the amount by $120,000,000.
On page 18, line 25, increase the amount by $17,000,000.
On page 19, line 4, increase the amount by $90,000,000.
On page 19, line 8, increase the amount by $8,000,000.
On page 19, line 12, increase the amount by $2,000,000.
On page 19, line 24, increase the amount by $540,000,000.
On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by $187,000,000.
On page 20, line 4, increase the amount by $203,000,000.
On page 20, line 8, increase the amount by $75,000,000.
On page 20, line 12, increase the amount by $75,000,000.
On page 21, line 24, increase the amount by $125,000,000.
On page 21, line 25, increase the amount by $46,000,000.
On page 22, line 4, increase the amount by $25,000,000.
On page 22, line 8, increase the amount by $18,000,000.
On page 22, line 12, increase the amount by $15,000,000.
On page 22, line 16, increase the amount by $13,000,000.
On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by $70,000,000.
On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by $7,000,000.
On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by $26,000,000.
On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by $22,000,000.
On page 25, line 12, increase the amount by $15,000,000.
On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by $1,000,000,000.
On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by $298,000,000.

INCREASING THE STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 10:30 having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 47, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 47), increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

Pending:

Baucus/Lincoln amendment No. 3131, to require a study of debt held by foreigners.

AMENDMENT NO. 3131

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3131.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) would vote ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 53 Leg.]

YEAS—44

Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Baucus	Harkin	Murray
Bayh	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Jeffords	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Johnson	Obama
Byrd	Kennedy	Pryor
Cantwell	Kerry	Reed
Carper	Kohl	Reid
Clinton	Landrieu	Rockefeller
Conrad	Lautenberg	Salazar
Dayton	Leahy	Sarbanes
Dodd	Levin	Schumer
Dorgan	Lieberman	Stabenow
Durbin	Lincoln	Wyden
Feingold	Menendez	

NAYS—55

Alexander	DeWine	McConnell
Allard	Dole	Murkowski
Allen	Domenici	Roberts
Bennett	Ensign	Santorum
Bond	Enzi	Sessions
Brownback	Frist	Shelby
Bunning	Graham	Smith
Burns	Grassley	Snowe
Burr	Gregg	Specter
Chafee	Hagel	Stevens
Chambliss	Hatch	Sununu
Coburn	Hutchison	Talent
Cochran	Inhofe	Thomas
Coleman	Isakson	Thune
Collins	Kyl	Vitter
Cornyn	Lott	Voinovich
Craig	Lugar	Warner
Crapo	Martinez	
DeMint	McCain	

NOT VOTING—1

Biden

The amendment (No. 3131) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the next vote in this series be 10 minutes in length; further, that when the votes begin at 1:30, all votes after the first vote be limited to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic leader.

SENATOR SARBANES 11,000TH VOTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we just completed a vote that is a landmark for one of our Senators. Senator PAUL SARBANES cast his 11,000th vote.

It was only a few days ago that we stopped the proceedings of the Senate to underline and underscore the voting record of the senior Senator from Vermont, Senator LEAHY.

Senator SARBANES has decided not to run for reelection, as we all know, but what a legacy he has in the Senate. There is no one with a better academic record than PAUL SARBANES: Princeton University, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa; a Rhodes scholar; he studied, of course, because of that, at Oxford; Harvard Law School.

Those who have had the privilege of working with PAUL SARBANES know that not only does he have this great intellect, he has so much common sense. Legislation he works on is detailed, very thorough.

He, of course, is our ranking member of the Committee on Banking. I have traveled with the distinguished senior Senator from Maryland. We have traveled various parts of the world. I have fond memories of PAUL SARBANES and all the things he has done. His wife Chris is a wonderful, caring person, just like PAUL.

Even though I have a lot of stories, I share one with the Senate. One of the things people do not realize about Senator SARBANES is his athletic ability. He is a great athlete. I was told a story about Senator SARBANES that for me is a classic. I love baseball. I follow the history of baseball. In high school, he was a star baseball player. He was selected to play on an all-star team. He was a shortstop. He comes to the all-star team as the shortstop from the Eastern Shore. The manager coach announces the starting lineup and he has SARBANES at second base. PAUL went up to the coach and said, I am a shortstop. I was selected as an all-star shortstop. The coach ignored him. He went back again, and finally the coach said, Kaline is starting shortstop. Al Kaline was a better shortstop, at least the coach thought so, than PAUL SARBANES. Al Kaline went to the Major Leagues when he was 18 or 19 years old and is in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

I know we have a lot of things to do today. People are going to the White House. There are a lot of places to go and this is a very important bill, but I could not let the time go by without acknowledging one of the great Senators in the history of our country, Senator PAUL SARBANES of Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask to speak not to exceed 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, one of the greatest orations ever uttered was the