

The fact is that this administration will not be here to see this sunset occur. Why would they care if there is a sunset in the bill or not? Their opposition demonstrates that those who are in charge of protecting our country know that a sunset is a bad idea and their opposition is based in logic and practical application. The administration knows that they will not be here, but the intelligence analysts who protect our country will. These analysts are not politically appointed, and do their job regardless of who the President is or what party the President represents. They need the stability of our laws to effectuate long term operations to prevent terrorist attacks, not guesswork which could hinder intelligence gathering practices.

We have already had a trial run with the 6-month sunset of the Protect America Act. Enough of the quick fixes, let's have confidence in the work product created by the nearly 10 months we have spent on this issue. A shorter sunset gives us an excuse to not legislate with conviction, and this is an excuse we should not make.

The 95th Congress had the ability to decipher complex problems and pass FISA with no sunset, and the 110th Congress can certainly modernize it without second guessing our capabilities by approving the Cardin amendment. I will oppose this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, in the remaining moments of morning business, I wish to highlight a couple important points about our economic stimulus efforts in the Senate.

We have had an opportunity over the last couple weeks to analyze carefully what the American people expect in terms of a jolt to our economy and what they expect this body to do. Unfortunately, we have been stymied by a lot of politics. I think it is important to point out very briefly the elements of what the Senate is trying to do, at least on the Democratic side and, secondly, to highlight its importance to the American people.

First of all, with regard to the basic elements—I will not go into a long discussion—in order to stimulate this economy, we have to invest in strategies we know will work. One of those is unemployment insurance. We know that. All the economists say that. It is not because Democrats assert that; economists say one of the only ways that is proven to jolt our economy is to invest in unemployment insurance. This proposal on the Democratic side does that. The House proposal doesn't do that in the area of unemployment insurance. It doesn't address that.

The package this side of the aisle has been pushing is a \$500 rebate. It is

across the board for everyone and obviously for those who are married it is double that. But significantly, in this proposal 20 million American senior citizens are provided some relief. That wasn't addressed in the House proposal. I think that is an important omission. In order to get this right, in order to jolt our economy, we need to help seniors. We also need to make sure a quarter of a million disabled veterans are helped as well. That is an important feature.

Thirdly, avoiding foreclosure; doing everything we can in this stimulus package in a short-term way to help families avoid foreclosure is another critically important element.

Home heating costs: In my home State of Pennsylvania—and I know the same is true in Ohio and across the country—there has been a 19-percent increase in the costs that families have to heat their homes, in 1 year. So if that is happening in Pennsylvania, we know it prevails around the country. This proposal in this Chamber does that. It adds \$1 billion for home heating costs.

Finally, helping businesses and energy: As to the cost to businesses, I think small businesses should get help in this rough economy, and this proposal helps our businesses. It also makes investments we should have—or I should say implements strategies we should have done months ago when it comes to incentivizing energy efficiency and other tactics to move toward a more energy independent economy.

So whether it is energy, whether it is helping businesses, whether it is making sure our seniors get relief, that our families get relief and that we focus on unemployment insurance, home heating costs, all these elements are critically important. It is not perfect. The Presiding Officer knows—and he shares this view with me—we wanted to do more with regard to food stamps. We are still going to try on that. But if that doesn't happen and some other things don't happen that I want, we still have to move this forward. I wish the other side of the aisle would allow us to go forward in a way that addresses these basic problems. We have seen a lot of talk on the other side but not nearly enough action to say we are going to support a proposal, not just what the House sent us but an improved and a much more significant proposal to hit this economy in the way we should hit it: With a stimulus to get the economy moving, to create jobs, to provide relief for our families, and to move into the future together. We can do that here. We should do it this week and make sure we don't pass something which is watered down and which would not do the job.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2248, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2248) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Rockefeller-Bond amendment No. 3911, in the nature of a substitute.

Whitehouse amendment No. 3920 (to amendment No. 3911), to provide procedures for compliance reviews.

Feingold amendment No. 3979 (to amendment No. 3911), to provide safeguards for communications involving persons inside the United States.

Cardin amendment No. 3930 (to amendment No. 3911), to modify the sunset provision.

Feingold-Dodd amendment No. 3915 (to amendment No. 3911), to place flexible limits on the use of information obtained using unlawful procedures.

Feingold amendment No. 3913 (to amendment No. 3911), to prohibit reverse targeting and protect the rights of Americans who are communicating with people abroad.

Feingold-Dodd amendment No. 3912 (to amendment No. 3911), to modify the requirements for certifications made prior to the initiation of certain acquisitions.

Dodd amendment No. 3907 (to amendment No. 3911), to strike the provisions providing immunity from civil liability to electronic communication service providers for certain assistance provided to the Government.

Bond-Rockefeller modified amendment No. 3938 (to Amendment No. 3911), to include prohibitions on the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

Bond-Rockefeller modified amendment No. 3941 (to Amendment No. 3911), to expedite the review of challenges to directives under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments on the amendment of the Senator from Wisconsin and what he referred to as the "bulk collection" amendment which he discussed yesterday and which is amendment No. 3912. I would ask that this time be taken from the opponents of the amendment, if that is all right with my vice chairman.

The Senator from Wisconsin is offering an amendment that he argues will prevent what he calls "bulk collection". The amendment is intended, as described by the Senator from Wisconsin, to ensure that this bill is not used by the Government to collect the contents of all the international communications between the United States and the rest of the world. The Senator argues that the amendment will prevent "bulk collection" by requiring the Government to have some foreign intelligence interest in the overseas party to the communications it is collecting.

I regret to say I must oppose this amendment strongly. I do not believe it is necessary. I do believe, as drafted, the amendment will interfere with legitimate intelligence operations that