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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, our hope for years to come, thank You for bringing us together again. Lord, we have missed each other and the separation from friends and peers has generated good memories. Our time apart often reminds us that we need each other and that we best honor You by striving to become models of unity. Lord, we thank You for the opportunities this recess provided for family time and fellowship, for relaxation and rest, for productive contacts and service. Now, as we begin anew the hard work of implementing decisions and solving problems, give our lawmakers and their staff members patience, endurance, energy, and wisdom.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had the good fortune last month to go to Afghanistan. It was, of course, tremendously educational. We had the opportunity—a number of five Senators, Democrats and Republicans—to visit with our allies in Kurdistan and Kazakhstan. It was a good trip. Then, of course, we completed our trip by going to look—which I had not done—at medical facilities in Germany. All of the troops who are injured or hurt in any way in Iraq or Afghanistan go through that facility. So it was a good trip.

It made it very apparent to me that we should do everything within our power to pass the Defense authorization bill because 7 years after 9/11, we all recognize that our No. 1 enemy, Osama bin Laden, is still free, and al-Qaida has rebuilt its safe haven, it appears, in Pakistan. The central front of the war on terror, we have learned, cannot be won in Iraq. Yet that is where our troops are located. Our treasure and our strategic focus remains in Iraq, but it should be other places. That is why it is so critical to pass a Defense authorization bill that not only supports our troops and our families but also takes a step toward a smarter war on terror.

The Defense authorization bill gives the troops a much needed pay raise of almost 4 percent. It also renews a number of special pay increases provided to troops who fill high-skilled areas that were so undermanned. We all know because of what has happened with the Bush and now McCain efforts, troops are in Iraq and our resources are in Iraq. Afghanistan has seen a surge in violence and suicide attacks are up. We have more coalition forces being killed in Afghanistan than in Iraq, roadside bombings have increased, and opium production is up with Afghanistan producing 93 percent of the world's opium. So we have to refocus on Afghanistan.

Our troops have done a tremendous job in Iraq and, of course, in Afghanistan. It does your heart a lot to be able to visit with those troops in the battlefield as we did. So it is time we get this Defense authorization bill passed. We have to do that. We need the funds for the programs in Afghanistan that are critical to winning the peace that have been ignored for far too long.

This legislation increases the size of the Army to 532,000; the Marine Corps, 194,000; along with other steps to improve readiness and reduce the strain and improve the capabilities of our Armed Forces. We have had other occasions with our Republican allies to pass a Defense authorization bill in the Senate, but we haven't been successful in doing that. So I hope we are allowed to go to the bill.

I have had a number of conversations with Senator LEVIN, the chairman of the committee. Each conversation I have with him, he tells me he is going to confer with Senator WARNER, the former chairman and now ranking member of that most important committee. We want to get on the bill. We want to get the bill passed. This bill is not an opportunity for people to vent their frustration on all of the issues that are floating around this country. This is a bill that deals with the safety and security of our Nation and the well-being of our troops. So when we get on the bill, I hope we can move forward and complete legislation on this

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

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most important part of what we are trying to do.

This is the first issue we are going to take up when we get here. So my goal is to do what we have to do to work on the Defense bill this week.

We have an energy summit this Friday. It has been requested by a significant number of Senators, including the gang of 10, which I am told is now up to a gang of 22—or if it is not 22, last week it was 16. It is a lot of Senators. So we are going to have the energy summit this Friday. It doesn't mean we will not have votes this Friday, but at least starting at 9:30 on Friday morning we are going to have an energy summit. My desire is to spend next week dealing with energy.

We have a piece of legislation we have had the opportunity to move to. It was a bill on speculation which was very important. I would think it could be a vehicle to work with. If our Republican colleagues wish to get rid of the speculation part of it, in an effort to be cooperative and show some degree of conciliation on our side, what we would be willing to do is have that as a vehicle.

The first amendment to be offered on that piece of legislation would be the Bingaman-Baucus legislation, which is a Democratic proposal that has been on the calendar, the only difference being there is a drilling provision in it. The second amendment would be the gang of whatever it is—now we are up to 22—and then I would hope we could have some kind of an agreement if the Republicans are not satisfied with the Bingaman-Baucus amendment or the gang of 22 amendment; if they want to come up with an amendment dealing with legislation, fine. That would be the next amendment in order. I hope we can agree on a limited number of amendments dealing with energy on this Energy bill. It is my understanding—and I understand this fairly well—that both the Bingaman amendment and the gang of 22 amendment have drilling provisions. So I hope we can move forward. We have attempted in the past, as everyone knows, to do energy legislation, including that with drilling. But, so there is no confusion or consternation on anyone's behalf, next week we should be able to do the drilling votes and other votes as they relate to energy.

The state of the economy is very desperate, for lack of a better description. Oil and gas are just part of our economic crisis. Since we left for our recess and the conventions are over, we have only more bad news, which means we should look forward also during this work period to see if we can do an economic stimulus bill. Why is one necessary?

Well, the Bush economy has lost jobs every month this year. Just last month alone 84,000 jobs were lost. A total of more than 600,000 jobs have been lost this year alone. The total number of jobless Americans is now about 10 million. A number of people are out of work also, but they stopped keeping track of the unemployment after they had been on the rolls for a certain period of time. Housing values have decreased by almost 20 percent. The unemployment rate has soared now to over 6 percent.

American workers are holding up their end of the deal because one of the interesting things through all of this is that productivity by our work force is up by 20 percent since 2000, but wages have not kept pace with productivity.

Then, finally, the news of Freddie and Fannie—these two huge financial operations that have been so important since the 1930s in our country—are now in trouble, and the Federal Government is taking them over, which is certainly another strong piece of evidence about the disastrous shape of our economy. I hope we can move on and do something with an economic stimulus package. To this point, Senator MCCAIN has been unwilling to do that. Let's hope this string of bad news items will bring him back to saying we need to do something with the stimulus.

We have—I am sure Senator MCCONNELL has, and I know my colleagues, the counterparts on the Democratic side of the Congress—received calls from Secretary Peters. We have tried in the past on a number of the bills we have put forth to put money in the highway trust fund to replenish it. We were thwarted from doing that. We have to do something. Secretary Peters said now States are only getting part of their money. Eighty percent of them have dropped; 50 percent have basically dropped to nothing. We can pass the highway trust fund replenishment bill immediately. We have a bill from the House that starts doing that on October 1. We would have to move the date forward. We are willing to pass it today. Democrats are willing to pass this today. I say to the Bush administration, to Secretary Peters, we are willing to do this today. She said it needed to be done immediately. I talked to her over the weekend. I acknowledge that is the case.

For this $8 billion, we will create eight times 47,500 high-paying jobs for people. So we should do that. I would hope we can get my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to move forward by unanimous consent today to pass that. What we would like to do, as I have indicated, is move the time forward from October 1. Secretary Peters said we need to do that. It passed the House by a 387-to-37 vote. I hope we can do that. In effect, what we could do is transfer $8 billion from the general fund to the highway trust fund.

There is a funding shortage looming, and we hear strong support from both Democrats and Republicans, with now Secretary Peters. I am confident she speaks for the administration. So we could pass this legislation immediately.

There are other priorities we need to work on this work period. If we have time to do that, we certainly will do that. We have the tax extenders. Without going through the list, I look forward to working with my friend, Senator MCCONNELL, to see what we can do to move forward on these things.

Finally, before we leave here, we must find some way to fund the Government. If the Republicans want to do it on a week-by-week basis, that is fine. If they want to wait to do it until after the election so we have to come back for a lameduck, we are willing to do that. If they want to do it sometime in February, we are willing to do that. We are not interested in games being played on the CR. We simply want to make sure Government is allowed to function. There have been Republicans on the other side of the Capitol—in the House—saying they want to close down the Government. I hope some of those people have read recent history where Gingrich tried to do that and it didn't work out well for the Republicans and certainly not for this country.

I look forward to this short work period we have left to show the American people we can get some things done. I hope that is, in fact, the case.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 3430

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that S. 3430 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3430) to provide for the investigation of certain unsolved civil rights crimes, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 3001 be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be agreed to, and the time until 5:30 be equally controlled between Senators LEVIN and WARNER or their designees; that at 5:30 today, there be a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3001, the Defense Department authorization bill, with the time from 5 o'clock to 5:30 equally divided and controlled between Senators LEVIN and WARNER or their designees, with Senator LEVIN controlling the final 15 minutes prior to the vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

DAUNTING CHALLENGES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I welcome my good friend the majority leader back to Washington. I hope he is renewed after the August break.

These past several weeks have been extremely instructive for me, as I am sure they were for a lot of the rest of our colleagues. I talked to a lot of Kentuckians, and not a single one suggested that I come back to Washington and do nothing until the November election.

America faces a number of daunting challenges. Very few of them were unknown to us when we all showed up here in January of 2007. Very few of them have been addressed, but there is still time to do significant work in the next weeks. I am still hopeful that we will.

We can protect millions of Americans from the alternative minimum tax and extend a host of expired and expiring tax incentives, including the renewable energy tax credits that drive much needed investment in alternative energy sources such as solar and wind. We should come together and agree to a long-term extension of these important tax incentives before the end of this year.

So far, Congress has been unable to come together on a comprehensive solution to our Nation's energy crisis. But the book hasn't closed yet on the 110th Congress. There is still time to act on this issue. And we should. We must work to provide much needed relief for Americans across the country who are struggling with the high price of gas at the pump. Congress can still show that we are responsive to the needs of the American people by doing something about the crisis now.

Some might disagree. One Senator on the other side recently said that he thinks frustration over the high price of gas has ''peaked.'' But I have seen no evidence of this whatsoever in my State. In fact, I am confident, after spending the past month away from Washington, that if we did little else these next few weeks but pass a serious response to high gas prices, fund the Government, and protect taxpayers, the American people would view these next few weeks as extremely productive.

Americans want us to act to increase offshore exploration. There is nothing to fear in this. We can and should increase domestic energy exploration, even as we encourage the use of alternative energy sources and new conservation measures. There is no good reason we cannot all get behind a balanced approach that would allow us to find more and use less at the same time.

We also need to do our basic duty of funding the Government by passing appropriations bills. Over the last 25 years, no other Congress has failed to pass a single appropriations bill this late in the year. Even the infamous do-nothing Congress of 1948 had passed more than a dozen appropriations bills at this point on the legislative calendar. This is certainly not a record to be proud of. But it is not a record that has to stand. We still have time to change course. And we should.

While at war, we have yet to fund the troops, homeland security, and critical domestic programs. We have yet to fund veterans hospitals, education, transportation, and national parks. These are the basics. We should take them on. The upcoming election is no excuse to put off our responsibilities for another day. Americans have held a regularly scheduled election every 2 years for more than two centuries. The work of Government must go on regardless of how strong the partisan currents flow. It always has, and this year should be no exception.

We still have a few more weeks to do right by the American people. Let's not just mark time. Let's make a difference and do something constructive to help the American people in a difficult economic time. Let's put political games aside for a few weeks and do what is expected of us. This is not too much to ask, and I, for one, remain hopeful that we can rise to the occasion.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Virginia is recognized.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wonder if I might pose a question to the leadership. Senator LEVIN and I just met in preparation to move forward, hopefully, on the annual authorization bill. This would be the 30th bill Senator LEVIN and I have worked on together. In the interim period, over the summer, our staffs have done a lot of very valuable work in terms of trying to sort through reconciliation between the House and Senate provisions. But it is our recommendation to the leadership that we try to obtain a UC to enable the amendments that would be brought forward to be relevant to the work of the committee, or the text of the bill.

I am just wondering, what do the respective leaders have to guide the Senator and myself on this issue?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to the Senator from Virginia that I hope we can work out something. We have this week to do it. It will be the last week that we have an opportunity to finish this most important piece of legislation. I think we owe it to our troops to work out something. We can get hung up on germane and relevant. One thing we could do—and I know we have had a problem here with people wanting to offer amendments on everything, as they have said, ''like we used to do in the Senate.''

Mr. President, I have been through a number of Presidential elections, and we have one coming up in about 60 days. We have to do things a little differently. I hope we can come up with some way to move forward on that. One of the suggestions made is maybe we could come up with something where the Senator from Virginia and Senator LEVIN can look at the amendments first related to the bill. We need to finish the Defense bill. Next week, we are going to be able to legislate our hearts out on energy. People have been wanting to do that for a long time. Let's get rid of this piece of legislation, which is important. I hope we can figure out a way to move forward on it.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we talked about this a couple of times before the August break. I know he is concerned because this bill has frequently been targeted for nongermane amendments. I can recall that, as recently as last year, a nongermane amendment was offered by a member of the majority and actually adopted and became a complication in trying to complete the legislation.

I say to the Senator from Virginia, I don't know what is possible. I just got in from the airport. I will meet with the Republican leadership later this afternoon to discuss with our colleagues what we might be able to achieve. I am certainly open to trying to move the measure along. I will consult with everybody on our side to see whether that is possible.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the leaders. I only say that Senator LEVIN and I are ready, beginning tomorrow morning, if this procedural motion this afternoon at 5:30 is carried, to go to work. Hopefully, we can waive any 30-hour requirement, or whatever might be attached to this, and proceed directly to the bill. We both have amendments that can be brought up, and we welcome amendments from our colleagues. Again, the issue of relevancy is imperative if we hope to complete this bill this week.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hope we don't have to use the 30 hours. We can start working on this tomorrow. There are amendments, as the Senator has indicated, members of the committee want to offer which relate to the bill. We should do that. Now, I hope we don't have to file cloture on the bill itself if we get on it. I think we should try to finish the Defense bill.

As I have indicated, I went to Afghanistan. We have learned a lot, and we are implementing what we learned in Iraq. There are some things in Iraq that didn't do so well. We are trying to do better in Afghanistan. But it takes resources, and that is what this bill is about. I hope we don't have to wait 30 hours. We don't have to do that.

We have a national election coming up. Speaking for the Republican leader, we don't want to be here until November 3, which is a Monday. We need to allow people to get back and work—those who want to help MCCAIN and OBAMA, those who want to work on their own campaigns, and those who want to help others who are campaigning. I hope we can legislate on this tomorrow. Before we do that, we have to proceed to it tonight.

Mr. MCCONNELL. At the risk of being redundant, I will consult with the leadership of my conference and other members, and surely we will be able to get on the bill, at the latest, sometime tomorrow and proceed with the amendment process.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the leaders.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3001, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 3001, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the motion to proceed to the National Defense Authorization Act. I ask unanimous consent that I be given 20 minutes to do so.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to set aside bipartisan differences and vote in favor of the motion to proceed to the National Defense Authorization Act. This bill is critically important to ensuring that our troops have the equipment and support they need in order to fulfill their mission. Voting against the motion to proceed would have significant consequences for the men and women who have made so many sacrifices for this Nation, as well as their families. It would mean delays in pay increases, delays in benefits, and delays in authorities that are necessary to train and equip our soldiers.

This bill authorizes the military construction projects that directly affect the quality of life of our armed services members by giving them new, safer, more effective facilities in which to work.

Under the leadership of Chairman LEVIN, the Armed Services Committee has produced a carefully crafted bill that addresses the many complex issues facing today's military. This includes language in direct support of our armed services members and their families, such as a 3.9-percent pay raise.

Over the last 6 years, continuous combat operations have put a severe strain on our Nation's military capabilities. Consequently, one of the primary goals of this year's bill was to focus on restoring the readiness of our troops.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness, I worked very closely with Ranking Member THUNE on the readiness acquisition policy and military construction portions of this bill that are under the jurisdiction of my subcommittee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senator THUNE for his hard work and cooperation during the markup of this bill. It was my privilege to work with him to advance the readiness of our Armed Forces.

I also thank our personal staff members and the professional staff of the committees for their efforts, in particular Peter Levine, Mike McCord, Bill Sutey, Lucian Niemeyer, Greg Kiley, and Chris Paul.

The Readiness Subcommittee has a broad mandate of policy oversight as well as jurisdiction over a substantial part of the DOD budget. In addition, it is responsible for the readiness and operation and maintenance provisions that support the essential requirements of the military services for the next fiscal year for the cost of normal operations. However, our goal remains simple: to maintain and, wherever possible, improve the readiness of our military.

Altogether, this bill contains $162 billion for the programs within the jurisdiction of the Readiness Subcommittee, which represents over 30 percent of the DOD budget. That amount is within one-quarter of 1 percent of the amount requested.

I believe all of us are concerned that our military forces have what they need to be trained and ready, but we are particularly concerned about the readiness of our ground forces. This bill fully funds the Army and Marine Corps readiness accounts, including the training and equipment maintenance request.

With respect to revitalizing our defense facilities, this bill invests an additional $413 million above the budget request in our infrastructure to repair or replace our aging defense facilities and improve the quality of life and the productivity of our military.

These military construction projects require both an authorization and an appropriation. I urge the Senate to pass both these important pieces of legislation—this authorization bill and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill—as soon as possible.

This year's Defense authorization bill also addresses the need for increased oversight of the acquisition programs and activities of the Department of Defense to ensure that taxpayers' dollars are well spent and not wasted. For example, this bill requires DOD to establish ethics standards to prevent personal conflicts of interest by contractor employees who perform acquisition functions on behalf of DOD.

This bill ensures that private security contractors do not perform inherently governmental functions in an area of combat operations. It codifies existing DOD standards under which security operations are inherently governmental if they will be performed in highly hazardous public areas where the risks are uncertain.

This bill prohibits contractor employees from conducting interrogations of detainees during or in the aftermath of hostilities. The provision has an effective date 1 year after the date of enactment to give DOD time to comply.

This bill requires the military departments to ensure that urgent requirements documents developed by operational field commanders are presented to senior officials for review within 60 days of the time they are submitted. This is a response to reports that Marine Corps leadership failed to respond to requests for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, known as MRAPs, and other critical requirements for several years.

This bill codifies the requirement for boards to review and approve—or disapprove—any new requirements that could add to the costs of a major weapon system.

This bill requires DOD to ensure that a contractor does not receive a competitive advantage by using foreign subsidiaries to avoid the payment of U.S. payroll taxes for its workers.

This bill requires DOD to establish a database of information regarding the integrity and contract performance of contractors, to ensure that this information is available to acquisition officials making key contracting decisions.

This bill requires DOD to take steps to ensure that contractor employees who are the victims of sexual assault and other crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan receive the help they need and the investigative assistance they deserve.

This bill requires the military departments to establish business transformation offices to serve as a central focus for the reform of their business and financial systems and processes.

This bill ensures that the chief lawyer for the DOD inspector general, or IG, serves at the discretion of the IG and reports only to the IG.

It is my hope that the Senate will strongly support these provisions.

In addition to working to improve the readiness of our troops as chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I was pleased in my role as chairman of the

Veterans' Affairs Committee to work to include language in this bill that will improve care for this Nation's wounded warriors. One such provision responds to the need for comprehensive care for wounded warriors and their families by requiring the Secretary of Defense to provide referrals for legal assistance when appropriate in order to help with legal issues related to long-term care needs.

The necessity to encourage and promote the treatment of service-related injuries was also addressed in this bill through the authorization of a pilot program to assess treatment approaches for all forms of traumatic brain injury and the establishment of a center of excellence for the treatment and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations.

In order to ensure that the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs continue to carefully coordinate these efforts to improve the process for the care, management, and transition of wounded and ill servicemembers, this year's bill also provides for a 3-year extension of the Senior Oversight Committee.

Let me end by restating how vitally important it is for us to move forward with the debate of this bill. A little over 3 weeks ago, I attended the deployment ceremony for the members of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team who are headed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for their second deployment. It was my great honor and privilege to say goodbye to these soldiers who are leaving their homes, their jobs, and their families in order to fulfill a commitment to defend and protect our Nation. I remind my friends and colleagues that we have also made a commitment to work together to pass a bill that provides our troops with everything they need to come home safely. The first step in this process is to adopt this motion to proceed so that we can begin debate on this very important bill.

I yield back the remainder of my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided between the two parties.

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

Mr. AKAKA. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ENERGY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, last week we heard chants, slogans—as if those slogans were going to solve the energy crisis—of drill, baby, drill. I think it is more appropriate to use the words of Tom Friedman: Innovate, baby, innovate. If we are going to solve this energy crisis, we have to have a comprehensive solution, and we need to unleash what America can do best, which is our intellectual capacity, our creativeness, our ingenuity. We need to unleash that capacity of America to get out and whip the energy crisis where we are addicted to oil. In fact, in this Senator's judgment, the single greatest threat to our security may well be our dependence on oil, not foreign oil but oil.

We all have been hearing from our constituents about what is the possible path for us to break this addiction, and we need to break the addiction and become energy independent in 10 years.

I caution against misguided rhetoric and hollow chants, as we have heard—of drill, baby, drill—as a seemingly swift and simple solution to high gas prices. It doesn't have any basis in reality. Remember the words of President Kennedy:

> Real solutions are not easily or cheaply obtained, nor are they quickly and simply explained.

So as we approach it in a comprehensive way, it is not easily and simply explained. Common sense ought to tell us, since the United States has only 3 percent of the world's oil reserves, and yet uses 25 percent of the world's oil production, we can't drill our way out of the problem. Indeed, there are 65 million acres leased by the oil companies from the Federal Government, not one of which has been drilled. In the Gulf of Mexico itself—where the so-called gang of 10 that is now called the gang of 16 seems to want to pick on my State of Florida and wants to drill all the way up to within 50 miles of the coast—there are 32 million acres under lease by the oil companies, and not one of those acres has been drilled. Yet they are leased from the Federal Government. As a matter of fact, that includes 8.3 million acres on which this Senator worked a compromise to try to solve this problem and got it into law 2 years ago, 8.3 million new acres kept away from the military mission line where we do our testing and training off of Florida, kept away from the shores of Florida. Not 1 acre of that 8.3 million has been drilled since it was offered for lease.

More leasing would not stabilize Iraq or guarantee Saudi Arabia's long-term friendship, nor would it end the unregulated speculation that drove oil prices to over $147 a barrel and pushed pump prices to more than $4 a gallon. More leasing of Federal lands will only delay America's freedom from oil. If we do drill, baby, drill, we will dirty and destroy Florida's economy. Even worse, if this so-called gang of 16 puts it all the way up to 50 miles off of Florida, it will cut the heart and lungs out of the last area of unfettered military training for the U.S. military, the largest testing and training for the U.S. military in the world, which is the range in the Gulf of Mexico, all off of the coast of Florida.

No matter what anybody says, when the United States only has 3 percent of the world's oil reserves but uses one-fourth of the world's oil supply, drill, baby, drill is not going to work.

Now, that is what this Senator has been saying for years. By the way, now even a Texas oilman is saying the same thing. T. Boone Pickens has all of these commercial ads on TV, and he says we cannot drill our way out of this problem.

As a matter of fact, the White House report from 5 months ago that I have shared with the Senate several times says the same thing: That drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States will not change the price of gasoline one whit until the year 2030.

So what do we do? Well, for the short term, we need to keep bringing gas prices down by not wasting so much oil and by banning the greedy speculation on the part of the oil traders and the profiteers. We have a Senate investigation that has reported that there is lax Federal oversight of these traders, and that is as a result of a loophole that was slipped in in the dead of night in December just before Christmas in the year 2000 at the behest of the infamous Enron Corporation. BP, Amoco, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley also were instrumental in getting this so-called Enron loophole through Congress. Afterward, the price of both oil and natural gas skyrocketed, despite reports that oil supplies were mostly adequate.

Links between soaring oil prices and vast sums of money flowing into these unregulated commodities have been uncovered by the Senate Commerce Committee and the Homeland Security Committee. As a matter of fact, just last week, a report by the Washington Post pointed out, unbelievably, that of all the futures contracts for the oil commodities, 81 percent of all that trading was done by people who do not intend to use that oil. If true, done by the speculators: 81 percent.

We have had testimony in Congress by an ExxonMobil executive. We have had testimony from a Shell Oil Company executive who said that under normal supply and demand oil ought to be at $55 a barrel.

But by any measure, this Enron loophole, which exempts the traders of energy contracts from Federal oversight, was an ill-conceived public policy. That is why a number of us have filed legislation to fully close that loophole and to stop the unchecked runups in

speculation of crude oil and gasoline prices.

Now, what do I mean by ''unregulated futures commodities markets''? I mean that a governmental entity, if it were regulated, would require them to put a substantial downpayment on the contract for future oil—to put their money where their mouth is—or a regulated market would be that they would require the bidder for that future oil contract to be somebody who was going to use the oil instead of just speculating on the price and running up the price. So if we do not do something about speculation, they can drive that up again, and we have to fully close that loophole.

About 50 percent of the oil we use goes into our cars and trucks. So it should not take a rocket scientist to realize this ought to be where we ought to focus. It took us in the Congress more than 30 years to raise mileage standards to a paltry 35 miles per gallon, to be phased in over the next 15 years—35 miles a gallon. It was 25 miles a gallon back in the 1980s. But, oh, by the way, that exempted light trucks and SUVs. It is interesting that American car manufacturers sell cars in Europe and the cars over there already get 43 miles a gallon. Japan is approaching 50 miles per gallon. In other words, we are wasting billions of gallons of oil here at home. To stop it, we must enact serious conservation measures, such as 40 miles per gallon for our vehicles. We must provide bigger tax incentives for people to buy hybrid cars and plug-in hybrids.

Now, what I have shared with you are not simple chants, simple slogans. They are real solutions for the short term. But for the long term, we need to unleash that American ingenuity and to rapidly build cars that run on batteries or hydrogen, not petroleum. We need to develop alternative fuels such as ethanol from things we do not eat.

Our Government, led by the next President, must enact a national energy program to transition us from petroleum to alternative and synthetic fuels. It needs to be leadership by the next President in the memory of President Kennedy, when we had only flown Alan Shepard in suborbit, and President Kennedy had the vision and said: This Nation is going to go to the Moon and back in 9 years. That is the kind of leadership we need, and we now have to act with the same urgency.

So we are going to have to pay attention to how we power our homes and industry. We are going to need to develop solar, wind, and thermal energy and safer nuclear power. We have a lot of innovative work.

I see some colleagues are in the Chamber who wish to speak, and I will conclude.

Let me say that I want everybody to know, including the Senator who is just walking onto the floor, this Senator is not going to allow Florida to be a sacrificial lamb for whatever is struck as an energy compromise, nor is this Senator, who has been protecting the interests of the U.S. Department of Defense for 25 years, ever since I was a young Congressman representing the east coast of Florida, going to allow drilling to cut the heart and the lungs out of the military mission area, which is our largest testing and training area, nor to threaten the interests of the State of Florida, by people succumbing to the simple slogan of ''drill, baby, drill'' when it ought to be ''innovate, baby, innovate.''

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

INTERNATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise very briefly to recognize tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9, as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. This is a day to bring a voice to the numerous children—many children—born with a continuum of serious, lifelong disorders caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol, which includes fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorders, and alcohol-related birth defects. The lifetime health costs for people afflicted with fetal alcohol syndrome is at least $2 million, and the overall cost of fetal alcohol syndrome in the United States is estimated to be at least $6 billion. That was back in 2007. There is a great need for research, surveillance, prevention, treatment, and support services for individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and for their families.

It is for these reasons I rise today to dedicate September 9 as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day and encourage all my fellow Americans to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; to increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol; to minimize further effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; and, most importantly, to bring greater awareness to a disease that is absolutely 100 percent preventable.

Communities around the world will observe a moment of silence at 9 minutes after 9 tomorrow, on September 9, to remind women that no alcohol during pregnancy is safe. For the past 6 years, the Senate has passed a resolution highlighting and bringing awareness to this issue. It is my understanding that all resolutions are currently being blocked, so we may not have one this year. But today, on behalf of the millions of individuals suffering from the lasting and detrimental effects of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, I encourage all Americans to observe a moment of reflection on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month to remind them that no amount of alcohol—none at all—is safe during the 9 months of pregnancy.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to share a thought about the vote we will undertake. I know some of us were taking to calling the speculation bill our Democratic leader offered the ''no energy bill'' because it had nothing in it to produce any more energy for America—American energy, which I think is a critical component of any successful policy to make us more energy independent, which, indeed, can make us energy independent if we do the right things as far as foreign oil and energy.

I would say to my colleagues, some of whom are part of the so-called Gang of 10, who are trying to work out a compromise they think might produce some more energy for America that might change a few policies that would make us more energy independent and help our economy, which by any calculation is being pulled down by the increasing price of energy, the Cato Institute says electricity bills have doubled since 2001. Electricity has already doubled.

Before we get into some of the more extreme proposals for the regulation of utilities and requirements on utilities, I would say that gasoline prices have surged. The world price of oil hit 140-some-odd dollars per barrel. It has dropped some, to maybe the $107, $110 range per barrel, which is better, but it is still far above the $30 a barrel it was just a few years ago.

So this is adversely impacting American families. We calculate it costs $57 more a month for a two-car family for gasoline each month than it did this time last year. It is also impacting adversely the American economy. I believe it is an absolute fact that this surge in energy prices is causing the economic slowdown we are facing today, and we have to do something about it.

There are things we can do. So I want to say to my colleagues who are trying to work on something, I am for you. I want you to go ahead. I want you to push forward. I want to put some things in there that will work. That is my policy. I will support anything—efficiencies, conservation, innovation, creativity. It must include more production of American energy, of course. Anything else would be mindless. People do not seem to worry that we pay $130 a barrel for imported oil, but they want to constrict our ability to produce oil and gas here at home. So I just want to say that.

I urge my colleagues who are discussing this issue to produce some things that will work, and you will have a willing supporter in this Senator. I am willing to do some things that may be even dubious if we can get some things that are good. For example, I understand they are talking about more offshore production. I think that is absolutely necessary. We need to have nuclear recycling. I am hopeful that will be part of any compromise package.

I offered with Senator DOMENICI earlier this year, just a few months ago,

the SMART Act, which would favor the nuclear recycling of waste, which would reduce its toxicity dramatically and reduce the amount that would be needed and produce more uranium capable of creating electricity. It would increase, I understand, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's staff so we do not have unnecessary delays in approving new powerplants. We have not built one in 30 years, but France is building them. The Brits just announced plans to build five more. We need to get in that game. We have not done so in 30 years.

I would note, however, there is nothing in this legislation that I can see that I am hearing about that would create energy from shale oil in the West. There has been no production from that 2,000 acres in ANWR that is part—that will be producing oil and gas out of an 18-acre region the size of the State of South Carolina. So those are things I hope we can have, before I yield the floor, in a compromise package and that would actually produce more energy for us.

I would note I am honored to serve on the Armed Services Committee with Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER, our senior member. I see them both here to kick off this debate. It is a very good committee. It is a committee I have learned a great deal from serving on, and I think it is important that we be able to move forward with the Defense authorization bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, under the existing unanimous consent agreement, the Senator from Virginia is going to proceed for 15 minutes, I understand.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I first wish to congratulate my colleague of some 30 years that we have worked together on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Under his leadership this year, we passed the 2008 bill unanimously by the committee in April. Here we are in September, and we are finally getting to the opportunity presented to our colleagues and, hopefully, this week we will act on this bill.

Earlier this afternoon, the distinguished majority leader and the minority leader addressed the Senate on their express hope that this bill will be acted on expeditiously and done so within this week. That will require, however, in my judgment—and I speak only for myself—a unanimous consent request relating to the amendment process. We are anxious to receive amendments from our colleagues, but unless we maintain some order in terms of relevant amendments, I am fearful we will not be able to expeditiously handle this bill. That is a matter that is now being quite fairly and forthrightly worked upon by the respective majority and minority leaders, and certainly my distinguished colleague, Senator LEVIN, and I have discussed this together and have a joint recommendation for our leadership.

I also wish to express my appreciation to our professional staff, both majority and minority, who have worked on this bill throughout the summer. Such that on the assumption that we can pass it and then get to a conference we will have beforehand reconciled some of the differences between—that is on an informal basis, but on a formal basis, we will be able to reconcile in a conference this bill and then bring it back in the form of a conference report.

This will be the forty-third—bill No. 43—consecutive authorization bill adopted by the Senate. I am hopeful the unbroken record of 42 consecutive times will now be the 43rd, and that puts the Senate clearly on record as supporting the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who most justly deserve all the support we can give them. I point out that we have a specific constitutional responsibility toward the men and women of the Armed Forces. It is this bill, coupled with such appropriations as may be acted upon by other committees—this is the discharge of our constitutional responsibility.

We are at a very dangerous crossroads in the history of the world. Our forces today are fighting in two theaters—Iraq and Afghanistan—and are standing watch on many other theaters and outposts across the world. They are facing the threats of militant extremists at home, worldwide, abroad, in all corners of the globe. We are also astounded by the performance of what heretofore we thought was a supporting partner in world affairs—Russia—by virtue of their aggressions in Georgia, and the instability in Pakistan, a major non-NATO ally but nevertheless a major ally. Hopefully, with the election of a new President, that country can begin to govern itself strongly because it is very important, with our forces on the border of Pakistan and our operations against the insurgents and the Taliban in Afghanistan, it is essential we have the strongest of working relationships with Pakistan. Then we have, unfortunately, the nuclear ambitions and the hostile behavior of Iran. All of those propose a profound and wide-ranging challenge for U.S. interests and our friends and our allies in the international community as a whole.

We are fortunate today that the people in the United States of America are so supportive of our Armed Forces. I have had the privilege to observe this Nation in previous conflicts beginning in World War II. In World War II 16 million men and women of the Armed Forces were greeted when they returned home from a solid victory against the axis powers, as well as those of the Pacific. Then, following the Korean conflict, again I had the opportunity to observe firsthand the deterioration of the support in the many respects it was given to the Armed Forces who fought so bravely in that conflict. I pause to think that we have celebrated the 55th anniversary of that conflict. Over 30,000 Americans—Americans in uniform—lost their lives in that conflict. Another 90,000 were wounded. Today, currently, 8,000 are still unaccounted for.

So we have a different attitude today. In Vietnam, we likewise experienced a lot of antagonism against the men and women of the Armed Forces. Today, this country is united behind those men and women and giving support to their brave families.

We have also had the good fortune for 35 years to have an All-Volunteer Force. This bill is constructed to continue that support of the All-Volunteer Force. I can recall, in the Vietnam period, I was privileged to be Secretary of the Navy—Under Secretary for some 5 years—that the constricted force experienced a lot of problems. It was during that period in 1973, I remember vividly that the then-Secretary of Defense, Melvin Laird, had the vision to have the All-Volunteer Force. It eventually came into law with the support of the Congress. It was a major gamble, I say to my colleagues—a major gamble. It was the first significant large military power in the world—the United States of America—to try and have this national security policy, this national security defended by all volunteers, but it has worked and worked well beyond the early concepts we had in mind. It has been a superb military force that has preserved America's freedom.

We also have in this bill a reflection on the future needs of our Armed Forces. This bill will provide better compensation and first-rate health care to improve the quality of life of the men and women on Active Duty and in the National Guard and Reserve and their families. I will enumerate a number of provisions in this bill that address those issues.

We also authorize Active Duty end strengths, increases for the Army to go to 532,000-plus and for the Marine Corps, 194,000-plus, respectively. We authorize an increase of 3,371 full-time personnel for the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. We authorize the costs of special pay and allowances, death benefits, and permanent change of station moves. It authorizes $26 billion for the Defense Health Program. It requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive policy to prevent, regrettably, the increasing rate of suicides.

So I say to my colleagues, this bill is absolutely essential—absolutely essential—and it provides the statutory authorities that our men and women of the Armed Forces need to succeed in combat and stability operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We will authorize those funds necessary to seek to reduce our Nation's strategic risks by taking action to restore, as soon as possible, the readiness

of the military services to conduct the full range of their assigned missions. I wish to correct that by saying by taking the action aimed at fully restoring, since much of our military is in a state of high readiness today.

This bill will improve the efficiency of Defense Department programs and activities, promote the transformation of the Armed Forces to deal with the threats of the 21st century, and improve the ability of the Armed Forces to counter nontraditional threats, including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 includes authorization of $24.8 billion in Division B for military construction, BRAC, and family housing programs. Because MILCON projects require a line item authorization by law, and considered new-starts, DOD will not be able to carry out any new project in fiscal year 2009 if this bill is not enacted.

Of the 24.8 billion, $11.7 billion is for military construction, $3.2 billion for the construction and operation of family housing, and $9.1 billion to implement the results of the 2005 BRAC.

Within the BRAC account, 282 projects are at risk across the country, including critical construction to establish new hospitals at the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD; Fort Belvior, VA; and Fort Sam Houston, TX, to facilitate the closure of inadequate facilities at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC. Other critical BRAC construction at Fort Bliss, TX, and Fort Benning, GA, is required to facilitate the return of U.S. forces from overseas locations and the establishment of new modular units. Also BRAC construction at Eglin Air Force Base, FL, is required to support the joint Air Force and Navy training.

In closing, this is an important bill that takes care of our troops and their families. It sustains a national treasure, the All Volunteer Force, and authorizes funding for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion to proceed to the Defense authorization bill for the sake of the men and women in uniform and in spirit of Article I, section 8 of the Constitution that assigns to Congress the powers ''to raise and support Armies'' and ''to provide and maintain a Navy.''

Mr. President, I defer to our distinguished Chairman. Again, I congratulate the chairman on bringing this bill to the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Very briefly, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, first, I wish to thank my good friend from Virginia, Senator WARNER. As he pointed out, he and I have been together in the Senate now almost 30 years. Hopefully, we could get this bill to the floor the way he and I and other chairmen before us have been able to get a Defense authorization bill to the floor and passed for, I believe, close to 50 years; somewhere in the mid 40s now we have had a Defense authorization bill. We have to have it under the law. There is mandatory spending in here. There are pay increases in here. There are benefit provisions in here. This is a must-do bill.

Senator WARNER, in his great leadership over the years, has made it possible for many of these bills to get to the floor. I look forward to all our efforts to get this bill done in the very few weeks we have remaining. If we do get it done—and I am optimistic—it will be because Senator WARNER, as always, brings his managerial skills and his good nature and his other skills to the fore. I look forward to trying to get this bill done the way we have been able to do it for all these years.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague for his kind remarks. I should also wish to join him in thanking the members of our committee. We have had an excellent committee, and we have a very bipartisan, professional staff. I am sure we can do the job. I will point out one additional feature—military construction. I daresay that almost every Member of this body has a provision somewhere in this bill relating to military construction. Without passage of the bill, that simply will not take place.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank my friend. I want to make another point. In the weeks we have remaining, we not only have to get this bill passed, but we have to get it to conference and back in probably a record period of time. It is going to take all of the cooperation of the Members of the Senate. We are going to succeed. There are 100 reasons to do it, and all of them boil down to the men and women in uniform and their families and the security of this country. The incentive should be there for us to do it. Because of the long delay, we have to do it in record time. We have had wonderful cooperation from members of the committee on a bipartisan basis. We have tremendous staff members who have worked over the recess to get the work done so we can get this bill passed in a very short period of time and so that we would have a reasonable chance of getting this bill done in the number of weeks we have left.

The committee approved this bill unanimously. More than 4 months ago now, on April 30, we tried to bring the bill to the Senate floor. At the end of July, we were unable to do so because we could not obtain cloture on the motion to proceed. There are many important nondefense legislative proposals that Members would like to bring before the Senate to get adopted. I am one of those Members. There are a number of things I would love to bring before the Senate and get adopted. But we cannot take out our frustration on our troops. I am prepared to give up a whole bunch of nondefense amendments that I hoped to be able to bring to the Senate's attention. I am willing to give them up. I hope other Members who feel the same way will ensure that we have a Defense bill this year.

This bill is simply too important and the time available to us is too limited to be sidetracked by unrelated amendments, as important as they may be. As my dear friend from Virginia said, we have enacted a defense authorization act every year now for 4½ decades. During that time, there have been years when we had to invoke cloture to get final passage, years when we have had to enter unanimous consent agreements to expedite consideration of the bill, years in which the bill was vetoed and we had to start over again. There have been years in which we have spent weeks debating the bill on the Senate floor and months in conference with the House. We have had to address serious disagreements over issues such as base closures and missile defense. But we have always had a bill because Members have always understood that we have to do what it takes to do the right thing for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and their families.

These authorization bills, which come annually, contain provisions that improve the quality of life for our men and women in uniform and give them the tools they need to defend our Nation and provide critical reforms to improve the operations of the Pentagon. That is the case with this bill. The bill reported by the Armed Services Committee 3 months ago obtains many provisions of critical importance to our troops.

First and foremost, the bill would increase military pay by 3.9 percent, a half percent more than the President requested. It provides continued authority for the payment of enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, ascension and retention bonuses for servicemembers with critical skills who are assigned to high-priority units, and bonuses and incentives to reward our troops to make sure we can retain our people. It provides new incentives to military psychologists and the nursing students to address the ongoing shortages we have in these critical specialty areas.

At a time when thousands of our troops are deployed around the world and our voluntary military is strained to meet the requirements of ongoing conflicts, while remaining prepared for other contingencies these are steps that we simply must take.

When our men and women in uniform are in harm's way, there is nothing

more important for us to do. The bill would increase the end strength of the Army, Marine Corps, Air National Guard, and Army Reserve to reduce the incredible stress on our troops. It would establish and extend critical authorities needed by the DOD for current operations. For instance, it would provide the Department of Defense the authorization to use funds for quick turnaround construction projects needed to support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. It will extend the DOD's authority to provide training and funds and stabilization in security assistance, which are so essential to the well-being of our troops.

The bill includes numerous other measures to improve the quality of life for our service men and women, retirees, and their families. For instance, the bill ensures that wounded and injured servicemembers will not be charged for meals received at military treatment facilities. It is so unbelievable that some of those facilities make these current charges, so I should repeat it. This bill will ensure that wounded and injured servicemembers will not be charged for meals received in military treatment facilities. It will provide supplemental impact aid for schools with large populations and military children. It authorizes funds for military construction projects, military family housing, and BRAC-related construction to ensure that our troops have the housing they deserve and our military has the facilities it needs for the national defense.

The bill will build on last year's National Guard Empowerment Act by requiring the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to develop a strategic plan to enhance the rule of the National Guard and Reserves, taking into account the recent report of the Commission on National Guard and Reserves.

The bill will provide funding for critical initiatives, including $3 billion for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization. That is the ongoing effort of that organization to defeat the threat of these explosive devices. There are over $100 million in investments in advanced energy and power technology to support defense missions, such as hybrid engines, military fuels research, and battery technology, and more than $120 million to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and improve our ability to reduce and respond to threats of weapons of mass destruction, both at home and abroad.

Another thing this bill does is something I think every American who has heard about the fact that we are spending taxpayer dollars for the reconstruction of Iraq, while the Iraqis have about $80 billion in surplus funds in banks, including ours, drawing interest from the American taxpayers, to go to the Iraqi Government to build infrastructure in Iraq while they are charging us $120 a barrel and we are paying $4 a gallon for gasoline. When the American public focused on that a few weeks ago, the reaction was what we would expect. They were astounded that 5½ years later, $11 billion a month is going out of our taxpayers' pockets, while the Iraqis have a huge oil surplus based on the revenues they get from $120- or $130-a-barrel oil, and with all that money in the bank, we are still paying significant moneys for Iraqi reconstruction. It is unconscionable.

We have a provision in this bill that will require the Iraqis to use their own oil revenues rather than U.S. taxpayer dollars to pay for the large infrastructure projects and also for the training and equipping of their own military. We all remember Deputy Defense Secretary Wolfowitz, at the beginning of the war, who said Iraq would be able to ''finance its own reconstruction through oil revenue.'' But that has not proven to be the fact. U.S. taxpayers, so far, have paid $48 billion for stabilization and reconstruction activities in Iraq.

Again, the Iraqi Government has generated more than $100 billion in oil revenue since the war began and spent only a fraction of that amount on its own reconstruction. Under these circumstances, it is inexcusable and unconscionable for U.S. taxpayers to have to foot the bill for projects that the Iraqis are fully capable of funding themselves. The bill addresses that problem. We should not have to have legislation on that. The President ought to call the Prime Minister of Iraq and say: Folks, you have $80 billion. Reimburse us for the reconstruction. Surely, the ongoing construction should be paid for by Iraq's surplus. But, apparently, that is not going to happen. So this legislation is needed.

The bill also includes a number of measures to ensure the proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars. These include provisions that would institute improved cost control for the acquisition of major weapons systems, require program managers to incorporate energy efficiency requirements and performance parameters for such systems, and ensure that private security contractors don't engage in combat and combat-related activities on the battlefield. This is a reform that has been needed for a long time. We have these contractors that are hired to perform Government functions, with combat-related duties. We simply have to make sure these private security contractors don't engage in combat-related activities in these battle zones. We have to increase oversight and accountability for housing privatization initiatives, and the bill does all that. Our acquisition system is in deep trouble. This bill addresses that issue.

Since the beginning of 2006, nearly half of the 95 largest acquisition programs of the Department of Defense have exceeded the so-called Nunn-McCurdy cost growth standards that were established by Congress to identify seriously troubled programs.

I wonder if I might inquire of the Chair about the time remaining that I control.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I will yield back.

Mr. WARNER. I yield my time to my colleague. I think I have 2 minutes remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 3 minutes 15 seconds.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank my friend. I am happy to share that with him. I am appreciative.

As I was saying, almost half of our largest acquisition programs have exceeded the Nunn-McCurdy standard to identify seriously troubled programs. These major defense acquisition programs are known as MRAPs. They have exceeded their R&D development by an average of 40 percent, and we have seen their acquisition costs grow by an average of 26 percent and experience an average delay of almost 2 years. The GAO tells us the cost overruns on these major defense acquisition programs—just on these programs—now total almost $300 billion over and above the original program estimates. This isn't the cost of these programs. This is the cost of the programs above what they were supposed to cost—$295 billion. That is true even though we have cut quantities in those programs and reduced performance expectations on many programs in an effort to hold costs down.

I want to put into context what the $295 billion cost overrun could buy for us. This is what we could buy at current prices: two new aircraft carriers at $10 billion each, eight Virginia class submarines at $2.5 billion each, 500 V–22 Ospreys, 500 Joint Strike Fighters, and 10,000 MRAPs—all of that, not either/or but all of it—and we could still pay for the total cost of our future combat system program, which is $130 billion.

That is just the overruns in those programs which have exceeded their cost estimates. These overruns happen because of fundamental flaws that are built into our acquisition system.

I will conclude because it is now time for us to vote. I am very hopeful that every Member of this Senate will vote to proceed to this bill. We cannot justify again delaying consideration of this Defense authorization bill. The men and women in uniform deserve for us to act. There is no way that we can look their parents, their families, their loved ones in the eyes and justify a failure to adopt this bill this month.

Again, I thank all the members of the committee and my good friend, Senator WARNER, for everything he has done to make it possible for us to at least have a good chance to pass this bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, my understanding is at the hour of 5:30 p.m. the vote will commence.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 3001, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Carl Levin, Christopher J. Dodd, E. Benjamin Nelson, John F. Kerry, Claire McCaskill, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Bill Nelson, Blanche L. Lincoln, Richard Durbin, Daniel K. Akaka, Robert Menendez, Kent Conrad, Sherrod Brown, Jack Reed, Jim Webb, Charles E. Schumer, Harry Reid.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting, the senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) would have voted ''yea.''

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

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Akaka	Coburn	Hagel
Alexander	Cochran	Harkin
Allard	Coleman	Hatch
Barrasso	Collins	Hutchison
Baucus	Conrad	Inhofe
Bayh	Corker	Isakson
Bennett	Cornyn	Johnson
Bingaman	Craig	Kerry
Bond	Crapo	Klobuchar
Boxer	DeMint	Kohl
Brown	Dodd	Kyl
Bunning	Domenici	Lautenberg
Burr	Dorgan	Leahy
Byrd	Durbin	Levin
Cantwell	Enzi	Lieberman
Cardin	Feingold	Lincoln
Carper	Feinstein	Lugar
Casey	Grassley	Martinez
Chambliss	Gregg	McConnell
Menendez	Rockefeller	Stabenow
Murkowski	Salazar	Stevens
Murray	Sanders	Tester
Nelson (FL)	Schumer	Thune
Nelson (NE)	Sessions	Voinovich
Pryor	Shelby	Warner
Reed	Smith	Webb
Reid	Snowe	Whitehouse
Roberts	Specter	

NOT VOTING—17

Biden	Inouye	Obama
Brownback	Kennedy	Sununu
Clinton	Landrieu	Vitter
Dole	McCain	Wicker
Ensign	McCaskill	Wyden
Graham	Mikulski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 83, the nays are 0. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for the benefit of Members, cloture has been invoked on the motion to proceed. We are now waiting to see if we are going to require the use of 30 hours. We hope that is not the case. The two managers of the bill are ready to start legislating whenever they can.

We have worked all afternoon trying to figure out a way to move forward on this bill, and I hope we can do that very quickly. This is an extremely important piece of legislation. This is the way we take care of our troops. There is a 3.9-percent pay increase in this bill, and there are a lot of other good efforts to help the Nation's military, so I hope we can move as quickly as possible. But we will wait for the Republicans to tell us if they are going to require the use of the 30 hours postcloture.

There will be no more votes today, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6532

Mr. REID. Mr. President, earlier today I came to the floor and indicated I had received calls from the administration—specifically, one call from the Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters, who pleaded with me to do everything I could to replenish the money from the highway trust fund. The House has passed legislation that that will take place on or about October 1 of this year. What we want to do, at the request of the administration, is move that forward and do that now. The money is gone. The Secretary has informed me and everyone else that she is going to start doling the money out, first 80 percent and then, as I understand what she said to me, it will be 50 percent, and pretty soon nothing. We have major projects around the country that will go unfunded and will have to cease construction.

It is extremely important we do this. We have asked, on many occasions prior to today, that this take place. We knew the trust fund was down. But we have asked this be done before, and we received word from the White House that this was something they did not want to do. Now it appears the White House wants to have it done—as they should have wanted it done a long time ago.

Mr. President, having said that, I ask unanimous consent the Finance Committee be discharged from H.R. 6532 and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that the amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table and any statements relating to this matter be printed at its appropriate place in the RECORD with no intervening action or debate.

That is the consent. I add that what this would do is replenish—take from the general fund money in the sum of $8 billion and put it in the highway trust fund.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GREGG. Reserving the right to object, if the majority leader will allow me to take a minute or so to explain the theory behind the objection, it is this. Essentially, the highway fund was set up with the highway trust fund and road construction to be paid for with revenues from gas receipts. This will be one of the first occasions when the highways' construction will be paid for by taking the money out of the general fund. The only problem is we don't have any money in the general fund. This money will have to be borrowed from our children.

It makes no sense from our fiscal responsibility to set this precedent. There are many other ways this can be paid for in a responsible way. Therefore, I do not believe we should start a precedent of borrowing from the general fund in order to pay for highway construction, which historically has been paid out of the highway trust fund.

Therefore, on behalf of myself and Senator DEMINT, I will be objecting. But I would like to say this. I believe that with a reasonable number of amendments, probably no more than three, and a very tight timeframe, we can address the issues about which I am concerned and about which Senator DEMINT is concerned. They would be relevant issues, I would hope. We would run them by the majority leader so he could be reasonably comfortable with their relevance. Mine obviously would be related to paying for it in a more responsible way than borrowing it from our children.

At this time, I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. As I said a number of times, I so appreciate the ability that I have—and I hope he, the distinguished senior Senator from New Hampshire,

has with me—to talk with each other, even though we disagree on matters. He is always very upfront. He told me what amendments he thinks should be offered and I appreciate that very much. But at this stage we cannot do that. It would take days to get to this matter and then, of course, amendments would take time.

I would also add this. This is not the first time the highway trust fund has been used in some manner. In 1998 we took approximately $8 billion from the highway trust fund and put it in the general fund. So now this is an opportunity to pay that back. We should have done it some time ago. We didn't do that.

I appreciate the concern of the Senator from New Hampshire, but I hope, during the night, people will think about this. I hope the Secretary of Transportation will let the Republicans know how desperate the country is for this money. We will renew this request tomorrow.

Mrs. BOXER. Will my colleague yield please for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mrs. BOXER. I stand here as the chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee. We write the highway bill, and Senator MURRAY is involved in the funding of it. Both of us are involved in both. I ask the majority leader's opinion on this.

We found out days ago that 82,000 jobs were lost in the month of August.

Mr. REID. It was 84,000.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you for the correction—84,000 jobs were lost in the month of August and our unemployment rate is the highest in 5 years. It is over 6 percent. I think it is extraordinary. I understand the respect we all have for Senator GREGG. He is upfront about how he feels. But the bottom line is, when people don't get a paycheck and they lose their job, I want them to know what is going on here. You have the Secretary of Transportation calling all of us saying: Please move now. As my friend pointed out, we have, in fact, used the highway trust fund in the past to fund the general fund. So this is not some extraordinary moment in history.

My question to my friend is—I want to ask you this, Mr. Leader: Could you please state again the urgency of this matter so my Governor, who is dealing with a horrific budget crisis—he doesn't need this. Neither does my State legislature. I have a Republican Governor and Democratic State legislature struggling to get a budget passed. I won't go into the details. You need two-thirds to pass it. Now we get this circumstance and job layoffs start to go out and the funding goes down—would my friend, the leader, please explain again in clear language why this is so urgent.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, the chair of the committee of jurisdiction, the highway trust fund is broke. As a result of that, there are roads being built and bridges being built and that is simply going to stop. The people there, going to work, in the near future are not going to be able to go to work anymore because there is no money to pay them.

I would also say this. One of the things that so concerns me about the Bush-Cheney-McCain operation is no one seems to care about all the red ink we have spent over the last 8 years. In Iraq alone we are spending $5,000 a second. During the time we have been here since this vote started, 40 minutes—I don't know how much money that is. I tried to figure out what it would be, 40 times 60 times 240. It is lots of money. Everything we have done this last 8 years has been basically done on borrowed money.

Here is a situation where the administration is asking us to take money from the general fund. They will borrow that money as they have done with everything here. That is why we have a $11 or $12 trillion debt. I cannot imagine that self-righteous people are all of a sudden wanting things paid for.

Mrs. BOXER. If I could ask one more question. The Senator has hit the nail on the head. We do not hear any complaints from Senators DEMINT or GREGG or any of them over there on that side, or Senator MCCONNELL, when we send all this money abroad. As a matter of fact, the administration announced $1 billion to Georgia—not Atlanta, GA, the country of Georgia.

Regardless of how we feel, we all want to help them——

Mr. REID. That is borrowed money.

Mrs. BOXER. Borrowed money. The war costs $1 billion to the country of Georgia. Why are we paying $1 billion? It seems to me Europe has some interest in this. But oh, no, now we hear objection from our Republican friends when it comes to investing in America.

I tell my friend, the American people need to know more about this. That is why I prolonged this discussion. I thank the Senator.

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

Mr. GREGG. I appreciate the enthusiasm of the Senator from California for her position. I don't think it accurately reflects my position. When you are voting for war costs, you are voting for supporting soldiers in the field. Basically, there is a big difference between the obligation of a Federal government to defend the Nation and support soldiers in the field and the obligation of the Federal Government to borrow from our children in order to do construction which should be paid for from taxes which go into the highway trust fund. That is a fairly significant difference. In fact, the two, as a matter of public policy, have basically no touch point.

The issue is, the highway trust fund does not have enough money in it right now to pay for the costs which have been obligated as a result of construction commitments.

We knew 3 or 4 years ago, when we passed the highway bill, that as a very practical matter we were setting up this scenario because we put in place thousands—actually, tens of thousands—of projects in that bill which we knew could not be paid for under the projected cash flows into the highway trust fund. We knew this point was going to occur when we passed that bill. So now we are here, and suddenly we hear these statements: Well, I am sorry, we are out of money. So we have to go into the general fund—which doesn't have any money, by the way—and take money out of the general fund and put it in the highway trust fund in order to pay for these costs. Well, who pays for that? That is borrowed debt. That is debt on debt. Our children pay for that.

The purpose of the highway trust fund was to build roads and to do it in a fiscally responsible way. If the highway trust fund does not have enough money to build the roads that are proposed, then you either, A, get more money into the highway trust fund; B, take the money from someplace else that is part of the trust fund, such as the mass-transit fund, which was the proposal of the administration initially and which makes probably the most sense here; or, C, you raise more money for the highway trust fund, something I do not happen to support, but that is the responsible way to approach this. You do not go into the general fund and set a precedent of borrowing from the general fund for the purposes of funding the highway trust fund because all that means is our children will get the bill and you will set up a scenario where the next time we get the highway bill, there will be even more projects in it because people will know the relevance of the highway trust fund, and the revenues coming into it, has no relationship to the number of projects you put in the bill because they will know that the precedent has been set that you can raid the general fund for the purposes of the highway trust fund. This is not good policy. It is not good fiscal policy.

It has nothing to do, by the way, with funding troops in the field. Now, the Senator from California alleges that I am supporting funding Iraq. By the way, I am not. Iraq reconstruction—I actually put the language in the appropriations bill which stopped money from going for Iraq reconstruction. So don't accuse me of something I didn't do. I have supported funding the troops, but I do not happen to believe we should be sending any more money to the Iraq Government. I think they should be sending us more money, if we get down to the basics here, for all the money we have spent on reconstruction, especially the money that has been stolen.

But, in any event, that is a red herring. The issue here is whether we are going to set the terrible precedent of using general fund money to fund the highway trust fund because, believe me, once you open that floodgate, there is no end to it—no end to it—and

the next time we get a highway bill around here, there will be no end to the amount of spending that is involved.

Now, I understand the construction industry is not really too concerned about that. I mean, they want those dollars and they want them now. If they get access to the general fund, they are probably pretty excited about that. But it is terrible policy. Remember, these projects will not be terminated. The spend-out will continue. It will continue at a slower rate. As money comes into the general fund, it gets spent out of the general fund. That is called—wow, a surprise—pay as you go.

Now, I hear a lot from the other side of the aisle about pay as you go. Well, this is the ultimate test of pay as you go. We should be paying for highway construction as we go or, alternatively, if you really want to start raiding different funds, you should raid within the highway trust fund. There are significant dollars in the mass-transit fund. You could take that money and put it in the highway trust fund if you really wanted to be consistent about funding the transportation needs of this country or, as I said earlier, you could raise the taxes, which I do not happen to support, to go into either one of those funds in order to make this a more responsible fiscal action. But what we are setting here is a precedent that makes no sense at all from a standpoint of fiscal policy.

The majority leader is absolutely right. We have been spending money around here in a very profligate way, and regretably it has not been a partisan event, it has been bipartisan. There has been a lot of money spent here that should not have been spent. But that doesn't justify creating a new precedent which will create significant debt for our children, on top of debt which already exists, when we know that is not the policy that was set up under the highway trust fund.

Now, if the theory of the chairman of this committee is that the highway trust fund is essentially a nonexistent event, that it is basically something that is there, it is a political statement—you know, the gas taxes should come in and be spent, but if we run out of gas taxes, we go into the general fund—if that is the position of the majority, the chairman of the committee, which appears to be the position, well, then let's abolish the highway trust fund. Let's abolish it. Let's put the gas tax into the general revenue base, and then you can argue, effectively, that it should come from general funds for construction—not necessarily a good policy. In fact, it moves away from good policy. If we wanted a good policy, we would actually have a much more structured capital budget around here, and we would fund it from independent sources such as gas taxes.

So we have a difference of opinion. It is a difference of opinion, however, that is pretty significant because it goes to the question of, How does a government spend money when it runs out of money? Does it borrow the money? Does it raise taxes or does it slow its spending to meet its income? And I would suggest that the best way to approach this is to slow spending to meet incomes.

The second way to address this is to keep the integrity of the highway trust fund by moving funding around within the highway trust fund. The third way to address this is to raise taxes, which I do not support. But absolutely the worst way to address this is to essentially make the highway trust fund a nonevent, neutralize it, neuter it, and essentially merge it with the general fund, which is what is going to happen as a practical matter if this bill goes forward in this form.

Now, I suggest to the majority leader, since I do not have the votes to sustain my position—I recognize that—the influence of the various forces that want to get this money is pretty significant, as always happens around here anyway, but in this case it is even more significant since the White House has changed its position just this week.

But I have suggested that we take up this bill, we spend a couple of hours on it, allow myself and Senator DEMINT—I think Senator DEMINT told me he wanted two amendments—I cannot speak for him, but I believe that is what he said—and that they would be relevant to earmarks, and my amendment would be relative to a better way to pay for this, which would be to pay for this by the transit fund or, alternatively, set up some sort of structure where the general fund gets paid back. But in any event, we could set aside a couple of hours here sometime this week and do it. I mean, we can do that on unanimous consent. I think it is a reasonable way to approach it, and as a very practical matter, it would give those of us who think a fiscally responsible approach at least requires a vote on it the chance to vote on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I did not dream up the idea that projects were going to be terminated. That is what the Secretary of Transportation told me. Now, maybe I misunderstood her. Maybe she was exaggerating. But that is what I took away from my conversation with her.

It is difficult for me to argue with the Senator from New Hampshire because I think it is fair to say that he has been trying to raise a red flag for a number of years about the wild spending of this administration. Even though he is a stalwart Republican and close to the administration, he has not been quiet about this.

Now, this is an issue I brought up today because I was asked to do so by the White House. Let the record be clear: Democrats have been very supportive of funding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We want to support the troops. And we can go into another discussion—and none of us want to get into that tonight—about what is going on in Afghanistan and Iraq.

But the highway trust fund, part of it—and I believe, if we ever get to a point where we are debating amendments on taking money out of mass transit—maybe 20, 25 years ago, when Nevada didn't have these tremendously difficult problems we have with traffic, with roads, and we were not concerned about mass transit, maybe we would have joined with the Senator from New Hampshire. But we in Nevada, as with many metropolitan areas around the country, are desperately in need of more transit money, not less—more transit money rather than less. So it would exacerbate a tremendously difficult problem if the idea of the Senator from New Hampshire bore fruit; that is, we take the money out of mass transit and put it in for highways. That would be the wrong thing to do.

You can no longer say that the highway trust fund is just for highways because for decades now, we have used part of this money—rightfully so—because of actions of the Congress, along with the administrations, taking this money and doing very important mass-transit projects.

So here is where we are. If we were able to have a vote on this piece of legislation tonight or tomorrow, it would pass overwhelmingly. But, as with the Senate, we cannot move to things just because we want to. We have a lot ahead of this. We have the Defense authorization bill, we have an energy issue we have to take up. That is next week. Every day that goes by, according to the Secretary of Transportation, is a bad day for the Department of Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Would the majority leader yield for a question?

It is my understanding that the Bush administration's Secretary of Transportation has asked us to move this bill, to put billions of dollars into the highway trust fund, so that it will not go broke so that we can continue building those projects across America to reduce highway congestion. And we have an objection on the floor of the Senate from a member of the Republican party to move to this bill to put the money in the highway trust fund; is that correct?

Mr. REID. The Senator is right. I see on the floor a poster child for the necessity to do this, and that is the junior Senator from Minnesota. We had a bridge collapse from lack of money, and we, on an emergency basis, came to this floor, recognizing what a catastrophe that was for Minnesota and our country. That bridge is now being built with borrowed money.

Mr. DURBIN. I say to the leader in closing, to make the record clear for those following the debate, our attempt to pass a bipartisan measure to help the administration, to make certain there is money in the highway trust fund is being stopped by the Republican side of the aisle; is that correct?

Mr. REID. Absolutely true.

Mrs. MURRAY. Would the majority leader yield for a question? I would say to the majority leader, since I am chairman of transportation appropriations, I have been warning of this to come for some time. It is my understanding that the amendment you are asking unanimous consent for takes $8 billion out of the general fund and puts it back in the trust fund, which is exactly what happened back in 1998, in reverse.

Taxpayers pay their gas tax into the trust fund, expect it to go for transportation projects. In 1998, we took $8 billion of that money that they expected to go into transportation funding and put it in the general fund.

What you are asking to do tonight is simply to take that $8 billion back and put it exactly where taxpayers expected it to go originally, which was to transportation funds; is that not correct?

Mr. REID. The Senator from Washington is exactly correct.

Mrs. MURRAY. I did not talk to the Secretary of Transportation. I did see their press release that they now want this money to come out. It is my understanding that if we do not take this action, as the House has done, that beginning this Thursday, and shortly thereafter, States will not get their transportation dollars and will therefore have to begin to lay off workers at construction projects and essentially halt many of the construction projects in the country, correct?

Mr. REID. When I talked to her, I believe last Friday, she indicated to me that she was going to have to make those difficult decisions. Then I also read her press release later, after she had been able, I guess, to put more numbers in the paper, and that is what I read, which is an elaboration of what she told me.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I share the concern of the majority leader.

I am deeply concerned that several members of the Republican Party have said no to this. At a time when our economy is in real trouble, when construction projects are not only providing critical dollars but completing important transportation work across the country, that we would allow those projects to be halted and workers to be laid off, adding to the economic woes of the country at this time, is simply not a smart move. I hope we see that decision reconsidered on the other side in the next 24 hours.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his leadership. I am not surprised that the Transportation Secretary for the Bush administration would call the majority leader and ask this be done. She came to us today. She stood over that bridge the day after it happened. When I was listening to my friend from New Hampshire talk about the fact that we need to continue funding our soldiers, of course, we need to do that. But for me, this is an issue of priorities. Why this administration would decide to spend $10 billion a month in Iraq month after month after month, so that this war has gone on longer than World War II, while we have bridges collapsing, while we have levees falling apart, defies reality.

When I heard the Senator from New Hampshire talk about soldiers on the frontline, which this Congress has been more supportive of than any other Congress for continuing that funding, for those people on the bridge that day in Minnesota, they were on the frontline. Those people who plummeted into that cold water that day were on the frontline. People died at that bridge. The NTSB has not concluded its investigation of the cause for the bridge collapse, but what we do know is, if it had been fixed earlier, if there had been appropriate funds all over this country for bridge and levee repairs, we may not have experienced some of the disasters we have seen. I view this not only as fixing a bridge that, by the way, is six blocks from my house—I drive over it every day with my daughter in the back seat, an eight-lane bridge that fell into the Mississippi River—it is also about going into the next century's transportation system.

If we are going to move to the next century in this economy, if we are going to start talking about transportation and wind and solar and doing things with biofuels and building our own energy future, we cannot be stuck in the last century's transportation system. As we face difficult economic times and look at the number in terms of what we can generate in jobs with transportation funding, it is a winner. I want to have an infrastructure plan and a stimulus package that lasts long after the rebate checks are cashed, that is looking to the future with infrastructure funding.

When Dwight D. Eisenhower created the interstate highway system, when President Roosevelt did the rural electrification system, they saw it as not only moving the economy forward, they saw it as a way to generate jobs. That is what this is about.

It is shortsighted, indeed, and shows a lack of understanding of the country's priorities to say that we should let transportation funding go down the pot while we are constructing bridges in Iraq and as bridges in Minnesota are falling apart.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the musical group Los Tigres del Norte for its contribution to the greater Las Vegas community and especially for its commitment to the Silver State's vibrant Hispanic community. As we commemorate the importance of the Hispanic community in Nevada and around the country during Hispanic Heritage month, I find it fitting to recognize the members of Los Tigres del Norte for their talent and dedication.

Just last year, this premier musical group was chosen by a committee comprising Las Vegas community and business leaders to join individuals such as my good friend, Wayne Newton, Vicente Fernandez, and other notable celebrities who have made a positive impact on Clark County. Like the Walk of Stars honorees before them, Los Tigres del Norte have added to the worldwide prominence of Las Vegas. These talented artists have also been an encouraging and supportive voice for the Silver State's hardworking Hispanic community.

Their Grammy and Latin Grammy winning music not only entertains, but it sends a clear message that we all have a commitment to making a lasting impact on our community, regardless of the color of our skin or our country of origin. It also tells stories of those individuals who often are not able to share their concerns and challenges. Los Tigres del Norte truly are a voice of the unheard. They confront the issues of our day and use their music as a medium to provide inspiration and hope.

Today I join my colleagues in the Silver State in recognizing Los Tigres del Norte for all they have brought to Nevada and their dedication to serving as a positive voice for our vibrant Hispanic community. Their addition to the Las Vegas Walk of Stars was a much deserved recognition of their almost 40-year-long musical career and their success in bringing to light the challenges facing America's Hispanic communities. As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I offer my congratulations to Los Tigres del Norte—an accomplished group of musicians of whom all Nevadans can be proud.

TRIBUTE TO TRILBY WHOBREY BALL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine who has left behind her beloved

Commonwealth stronger than when she found it. Mrs. Trilby Whobrey Ball was 80 years old when she passed away in her Owensboro, KY, home this August 26.

Born in the Kentucky town of Semiway, in McLean County, Trilby—or Trib, to her friends—graduated from Calhoun High School in 1946. She married her husband, Dr. Coy ''Eddie'' Ball, in 1947 when they both were attending Western Kentucky University. The Balls moved to Owensboro in 1964, where they would stay until this day.

Trib became well known to her neighbors and friends as she became active in her community. She was a member of the Daviess County Medical Auxiliary/Alliance since 1964 and served on the boards of several important charitable causes, including the Ellis Park Foundation, the Alma Randolph Foundation and the H.L. Neblett Center.

In fact, I first became aware of the H.L. Neblett Center through Trib. The old building she showed me wasn't good enough, and I was able to appropriate funds to construct a new H.L. Neblett Center for the community to focus on mentoring children and their families. That is directly due to Trib, and a room in the new building is appropriately named after her.

Since 2005, she was a member of the Kentucky State Legislative Ethics Commission. She joined Owensboro's First Baptist Church and became an integral member of the New Ladies Sunday school class, a group of fast friends who were very supportive of the Ball family during Trib's final years.

Trib also became involved in local politics and devoted a lot of time to serving her community and her country that way. Back in the days when Kentucky was very much dominated by one political party, she stood up for a competitive two-party system. She became active in the Republican Party of Daviess County and of Kentucky, and was chairperson of the 21-county Second District from 1968 to 1972. She cochaired the Daviess County gubernatorial campaign for Kentucky Governor Louie B. Nunn.

Trib served on the party's State Central Committee for more than 20 years, and represented Kentucky as either a delegate or a guest at the Republican National Convention three times. In fact, in my role as its temporary chairman, I selected her to be my honorary escort for the 2008 Republican Convention, just held last week. Sadly, she left us before that date, but I decided to let her appointment stand as I know Trib would have loved to be with us in St. Paul, MN.

May I add, that Trib was also a longtime, steadfast supporter of my own campaigns, and I remember her eagerness to help and to volunteer very well. Trib was very helpful to me back when no one knew who I was or if I could win a statewide election. I'm gratified that 24 years after the fact, she told a reporter at a Lincoln Day luncheon this year that my first Senate race in 1984 was one of the sweetest campaigns she ever worked on. It was made all the sweeter by her presence.

Friends and family members will remember Trib's love of boating, basketball and bluegrass music when they think of her long, well-lived life. She leaves behind her husband of nearly 61 years, Eddie; their two children, Bonnie Harris and her husband Jay as well as David Ball and his wife Christy; her grandchildren, Jack, Cal and Keeley Harris; her sister, Sylvia Gross; several nieces and nephews; and many other beloved family members.

Mrs. Trilby Whobrey Ball was a very special woman and one of Kentucky's finest citizens. I extend my deepest sympathies to her family. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT BRIAN K. MILLER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SGT Brian K. Miller from Pendleton, IN. Brian was 37 years old when he lost his life on August 2, 2008, in Abd Allah, Iraq, from injuries sustained when his vehicle overturned. He was a member of D Company, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Division, 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard of Huntington, IN.

Today, I join Brian's family and friends in mourning his death. Brian will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother, friend, and soldier. He is survived by his wife, Becky Miller; his children, Nikki and Austin Miller; his mother, Donna Cook; his sister, Tammy Osalear; and his brother, Kevin Miller. Brian was preceded in death by his father, Glen Miller; and his brother, Kenny Miller.

A lifelong Hoosier, Brian was born in Indianapolis, IN, and graduated from Pendleton Heights High School in 1990. Driven to public service, he joined the Indiana Army National Guard as a metal worker in 1989, while still in high school. Brian was assigned to Company D (HM), 738th Maintenance Battalion in Indianapolis and later moved to 1413th Engineer Detachment in Edinburgh, Indiana, where he was a vehicle mechanic and a welder. He later served time with Company C (HM), 38th Main Support Battalion as a welder and vehicle mechanic.

For 19 years, Brian devoted himself to national service through the Indiana National Guard. He assisted in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in the Mississippi Valley and in security for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. In March, Brian was deployed to Iraq, serving as a truck commander for more than 20 combat logistics patrols and working full-time as a technician with the Indiana Army National Guard. His comrades remember Brian as a respected leader who brought both professionalism and humor to his service, and as a man who loved his family. For his exceptional service and sacrifice, Brian was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 5 Oak Leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Brian set. Today and always, Brian will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg:

> We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as we can take some measure of solace in knowing that Brian's heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Brian K. Miller in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this struggle in which we are engaged, and the immeasurable pain that comes with so great a loss, I pray that Brian's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said:

> He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Brian.

SERGEANT GARY M. HENRY

Mr. President, I also rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SGT Gary M. Henry from Indianapolis, IN. Gary was 34 years old when he lost his life on August 4, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained from a roadside bomb that hit his vehicle. He was a member of the 38th Military Police Company, 38th Infantry Division, Army National Guard in Danville, IN.

Today, I join Gary's family and friends in mourning his death. Gary will forever be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, son, brother, friend, and soldier. He is survived by his wife, Regina Lynn; his children, Shelby Brooke, Gavin Michael, and Ashtyn Taylor; his father, Gary Henry; his mother and step-father, Marajo and Rick Castor; his sister, Jennifer Clark; his step-sister, Stevie Ewing; his step-brother, Jon Castor; and his grandparents, Margaret Hawkins, Orville Henry, and Pat Henry.

Gary Henry was one of Indianapolis' great public servants, and his passion was visible in every aspect of his life. He joined the Indiana National Guard in 1991 while he was a student at Whiteland High School. Gary retired from the Guard 12 years ago, but rejoined in 2007, hearing once again the call to national service. A 12-year veteran of the Indianapolis Fire Department, Gary was known to his peers as a team player, a dependable and upstanding leader who could be counted on during hard times. He served as a captain and coordinator of special operations, head of the crisis response team, a paramedic, and a Marion County Deputy.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the extraordinary example Gary set. Today and always, Gary will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg:

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This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as we can take some measure of solace in knowing that Gary's heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Gary M. Henry in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this struggle in which we are engaged, and the immeasurable pain that comes with so great a loss, I pray that Gary's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said:

> He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Gary.

SPECIALIST JONATHAN D. MENKE

Further, Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SPC Jonathan D. Menke from Madison, IN. Jon was 22 years old when he lost his life on August 4, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained from a roadside bomb that detonated near his vehicle. He was a member of the 38th Military Police Company, 38th Infantry Division, Army National Guard in Danville, IN.

Today, I join Jonathan's family and friends in mourning his death. Jonathan will forever be remembered as a loving son, brother, friend and soldier. He is survived by his mother, Debbie Kay Estes Sizemore; his father and stepmother, Daniel and Paula Menke; his sisters, Kristen Pearson and Nichole Menke; and his brother, Matthew Eversole. Jon was preceded in death by his brother, Shane Pearson.

A lifelong Hoosier, Jon was born in Columbus, IN, and raised in Madison. A 2005 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, Jon was a successful student with many talents. He was a member of the football and track teams, qualifying for a regional meet as a member of the 400-meter relay team. He was on the honor roll, was awarded for his art skills in sculpture, and had leading roles in school plays. A natural artist, Jon also played guitar and banjo.

In March of 2004, Jon answered the call to serve his country and joined the Indiana National Guard. He graduated from basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in 2005. Returning to his education, Jon attended Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and Ivy Tech in Indianapolis. In February of 2008, Jon was called to active duty and deployed to Kuwait and later to East Baghdad, his last assignment. Jon was an exemplary soldier. For his outstanding service and sacrifice, Jon was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Combat Action Badge.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Jon set. Today and always, Jon will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg:

> We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as we can take some measure of solace in knowing that Jon's heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jonathan D. Menke in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this struggle in which we are engaged, and the immeasurable pain that comes with so great a loss, I pray that Jon's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said:

> He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Jon.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ANIMAL DRUG USER FEE ACT, H.R. 6432

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 6432, a bill that reauthorizes the Animal Drug User Fee Act, or ADUFA, and create a new user fee for the approval of generic animal drugs. This bill also addresses the use of antibiotics in animals, and technical corrections to last year's Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act.

Like human drugs, animal drugs must be shown to be safe and effective before they can be marketed. An animal drug can take 7 to 10 years to develop, at a cost of $100 million or more. ADUFA supports the review of animal drugs by authorizing FDA to collect fees for animal drug applications, and for the establishments, products, and sponsors associated with these products.

This program is similar to the user fee programs for human drugs and medical devices which we renewed last year. Like those programs, ADUFA expires October 1. If we do not act on this bill, 60 valuable FDA employees could be laid off. Even if we simply delay renewal of this program, those employees will receive a ''reduction in force,'' or RIF notice, indicating they might be let go. Many will make that possibility a reality, and leave the agency, taking their talent with them.

ADUFA has been a success. The program has eliminated the review backlog for new animal drugs, improved the timeliness and predictability of reviews, and improved communication between companies and the FDA throughout the process. The renewal of this program will continue to enhance FDA review capacity, including more support for increasingly complex reviews. Also, there is a growing backlog of premarket inspections of foreign animal drug producing facilities, which is a very timely issue. The renewal of ADUFA would better prioritize those inspections, and eliminate the backlog, helping to keep our animal drug supply safe.

The renewal of this important animal health program would nearly double funding levels to $98 million over 5 years. I want to be clear that the renewal of this program does not speed up the review of new animal drugs. It holds FDA to the same performance goals for review times—it just keeps review times from getting slower.

The bill we are considering today contains another important advance for animal drugs. Under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, FDA is required to review and act on generic animal drug applications within 180 days. Unfortunately, in fiscal year 2007, the average review time for generic animal drug applications was 570 days, and there was a backlog of 446 of these submissions. Without Congressional action,

the proposed target for action in fiscal year 2009 is 700 days—nearly 2 years. This is an untenable position.

We all know that FDA is seriously underfunded. Like many of you, I would prefer that appropriations be used to fund the agency's activities. But that is simply not in the offing. An appropriated dollar is better than a user fee dollar, but a user fee dollar is better than no dollar at all. The Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act under consideration today would create a new program to fund the reviews of animal generic drugs. This program will lead to progressive improvements in performance, with the time for review and action on submissions decreasing each year.

If we do not proceed with this initiative, our farmers, ranchers, veterinarians and pet owners like you and me will not be able to capture the savings that result from generic animal drug use. I want to point out that even with the creation of this new user fee, the performance goals do not return animal generic drug review times to the statutory requirement of 180 days. By fiscal year 2013, the fifth year of the program, the proposed review target is 270 days. Once again, the best we can do is to keep things from getting much worse as quickly.

The bill before us today also includes a section expanding and streamlining the reporting of the amount of antibiotics that are used to treat animals that are sold annually and the label information about those antibiotics. This reporting language is a carefully crafted compromise between the farmer, rancher and veterinarian communities on one side and those who think the FDA has inadequate information to assess the potential public health impact of antibiotic use on the other. I appreciate the House Members and staff and outside groups who worked together to achieve this agreement.

Finally, this bill contains just two of several changes necessary to properly implement the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007. As with any large piece of legislation, there are some technical corrections necessary to fix inadvertent errors in the law.

These technical corrections are critical to ensuring that key drug safety and transparency provisions in the bill work as intended. I am disappointed that we could not complete agreement on a package in time to attach the package to ADUFA. I am even more discouraged that the House chose to cherry-pick just the technical corrections they wanted and attach those instead.

But given the approaching deadline for renewing ADUFA, we cannot afford to hold this important program hostage to unrelated provisions. I intend to continue pressing for passage of a full package of technical corrections. I appreciate Chairman DINGELL's commitment to continuing to meet and work on this, and I look forward to preparing a full package of technical corrections that can be accepted by both Houses and go into effect.

I thank my colleagues for their hard work on these proposals. We have some work still ahead of us, but the bill before us today contains much that is good. I strongly urge my colleagues to support final passage.

NAMING OF U.S. COURTHOUSE IN RICHMOND, VA

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on S. 2403, a bill to name the new United States courthouse in Richmond, VA, for two distinguished jurists and sons of VA.

Senator WEBB and I introduced this bill together last year, and the bill passed the Senate on June 24, 2008. The House of Representatives is expected to pass this bill tonight, with a minor technical change. It is my hope that the Senate will accept this minor modification and pass this bill when the legislation returns to the Senate tonight or early tomorrow.

Our bill will recognize two of Virginia's outstanding jurists: Spotswood Robinson III and Robert Mehrige, Jr. They were lawyers who throughout their careers adhered to the principle of ''equal justice under law.''

The first, Spottswood William Robinson, III, was born in Richmond, VA, on July 26, 1916. He attended Virginia Union University and then the Howard University School of Law, graduating first in his class in 1939 and serving as a member of the faculty until 1947.

Judge Robinson was one of the core attorneys of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 1948 to 1960, achieving national prominence in the legal community with his representation of the Virginia plaintiffs in the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education. Brown outlawed public school segregation declaring ''separate but equal'' schools unconstitutional.

In 1964, Judge Robinson became the first African American to be appointed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and, in 1966, President Johnson appointed Judge Robinson the first African American to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Finally, on May 7, 1981, Judge Robinson became the first African American to serve as chief judge of the District of Columbia Circuit.

Our second jurist, Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr., was born in 1919 and later attended High Point College in North Carolina. He subsequently earned his law degree from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, from which he graduated at the top of his class in 1942.

From 1942 to 1945, Judge Merhige served in the U.S. Air Force, he practiced law in Richmond from 1945 to 1967, establishing himself as a formidable trial lawyer representing criminal defendants as well as dozens of insurance companies.

On August 30,1967, Judge Merhige was appointed U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division by President Lyndon B. Johnson, serving as a Federal judge until 1998. In 1972, Judge Merhige ordered the desegregation of dozens of Virginia school districts. He considered himself to be a ''strict constructionist'' who went by the law as spelled out in precedents by the higher courts. In 1970, he ordered the University of Virginia to admit women. As evidence of Judge Merhige's groundbreaking decisions, he was given 24-hour protection by Federal marshals due to repeated threats of violence against him and his family. His courage in the face of significant opposition of the times is a testimony to his dedication to the rule of law.

As my colleagues may be aware, I have worked to name the new courthouse in Richmond for these two men for several years. I am proud that the Virginia Congressional delegation, the Virginia Bar Association, the mayor of Richmond, and many others decided that the best way to honor both men was to have them equally share the honor of having the courthouse so named.

With the ribbon cutting for this grand facility tentatively set for October 17 of this year, I can think of no better time than now to move this legislation in honor of Spottswood Robinson and Robert Merhige. I thank the committee for the consideration of this bill and look forward to working with my colleagues in seeking its passage.

COMMENDING OLYMPIAN SHAWN MACHEL JOHNSON

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I honor an Iowan who has shown tremendous strength of spirit, as well as a fierce determination and world-class talent. Olympic gymnast Shawn Machel Johnson has been and continues to be a model of character and fitness, as well as a source of inspiration for all Americans.

Shawn recently returned from Beijing, where she made us all very proud, competing in the 2008 Olympics and winning one gold and three silver medals. The gold medal was for her performance in the balance beam finals, while the silver medals were for the team competition, the women's all-around, and the floor individual finals.

Since Johnson was 3 years old, she has exhibited a love for gymnastics, and received constant support and encouragement from her parents Teri and Doug Johnson, and coaches Liang Qiao and Liwen Zhuang. She is greatly admired and respected by her fellow gymnasts at Chow's Gymnastics and Dance in West Des Moines, where she has been training since she joined the facility at age 6. Her training and her strong commitment to the sport have propelled her to success in the series of competitions that led her to the Beijing Summer Olympics.

In addition to her rigorous training of up to 25 hours per week, she has also excelled academically. She is now in her junior year at Valley High School in West Des Moines, and has been on the ''A'' Honor Roll. I believe very strongly that promoting fitness and providing quality education are both key factors in ensuring that children have a bright and successful future. Shawn Johnson is an inspiration to Iowa's young people to stay active, be studious, do what they love, and follow their dreams.

I would like to congratulate Johnson for bringing home four Olympic medals and commend her for her outstanding commitment to the sport of gymnastics. I hope that she continues to pursue her passion and that we will see her endearing smile and more of her amazing performances in London in 2012.

COMMENDING OLYMPIAN LOLO JONES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I honor an Iowan who has courageously pursued her dreams through great adversity and who has displayed outstanding character and grace throughout her life. Lori ''Lolo'' Jones recently returned from Beijing, where she competed as a hurdler in the 2008 Olympic Games. Lolo made us all very proud as she represented the United States in Beijing. Although she did not come away from Beijing with a medal, she realized her dream of competing in the Olympics and was a model of athleticism, sportsmanship, and determination.

Lolo has had seemingly limitless energy, a positive attitude and an intense focus on running since she was a child. It is these characteristics that have allowed her to overcome what many would consider to be challenging circumstances, including the fact that her family relocated frequently throughout her childhood.

As a student at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, she excelled at running as well as academics. After graduating from Roosevelt, Lolo became the first in her family to attend college when she enrolled at Louisiana State University, where she excelled on the LSU track team. She graduated with an economics degree and a minor in Spanish, yet deferred seeking a career in her field of study, determined to pursue her running career instead. She worked part-time jobs to support herself and to have free time to travel for competitions. After missing an opportunity to compete in Athens in 2004, her former LSU coach persuaded sponsors to recognize Lolo's great potential, allowing her to devote herself to becoming a world-class professional athlete.

Competing in and winning many races around the world in the years leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Lolo became a highly respected athlete, not only for her performances, but for her exemplary sportsmanship and generosity.

And, through it all, Lolo never forgot where she began her journey. She returned to Roosevelt High School earlier this year to make a donation for improvements to the track, and also for new shoes and equipment for the track team. She also donated winnings from a recent race to a victim of the flooding that ravaged Iowa this spring.

I salute Lolo Jones for her extraordinary discipline and hard work, for her determination to improve and excel as an athlete, and also for her grace, generosity, and strength of character. She has been, and will continue to be, a wonderful role model for all athletes and for all young people seeking to excel in their field. I congratulate her on all of her achievements and on realizing her dream of competing in the Olympics. I hope and expect that we will see Lolo again in London in 2012, this time hurdling her way toward Olympic gold.

REMEMBERING BABE RUTH

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and career of Babe Ruth, one of America's greatest baseball players. The man we know as Babe Ruth, was born on February 6, 1895, as George Herman Ruth, Jr. and passed away 60 years ago on August 16, 1948. In his obituary, the New York Times called him ''a figure unprecedented in American life. A born showman off the field and a marvelous performer on it, he had an amazing flair for doing the spectacular at the most dramatic moment.'' Although he played his last season in 1935, Ruth still holds the records for all-time highest slugging percentage. Ruth's 714 career homers and his consistent dominance in the batter's box rightly earned him the nickname, ''The Sultan of Swat.''

However, Babe Ruth was more than a superior ballplayer. Although his dramatically big swing earned him a place in the record books, Mr. Ruth was a figure of legendary proportions who permanently changed the game of baseball and made it a fixture in American life. His famous ''called'' shot in the 1932 World Series is so ingrained in our national memory and baseball lore that even our youngest children playing tee-ball in backyards across the country seek to emulate this iconic moment.

Mr. Ruth was also famous for his generosity, working for the Red Cross during World War II, organizing charity golf tournaments with longtime adversary Ty Cobb, appearing at benefits, and buying more than $100,000 in war bonds. A year before his death, he established the Babe Ruth Foundation, which provided assistance to disadvantaged children. Linda Ruth Tosetti, Mr. Ruth's granddaughter, is a resident of Connecticut, and today I would like to remember her grandfather, one of the greatest sports legends in our Nation's history.

RECOGNIZING THE LA SALLE ACADEMY PLAYERS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I recognize the achievement of the La Salle Academy Players, the theater troupe from my high school alma mater, which recently gave four performances of ''The Scottish Play: Macbeth'' at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This prestigious event, the world's largest arts festival, is held annually in Scotland.

The La Salle Players were one of only 43 high school troupes chosen to perform from among hundreds of high school drama programs by the American High School Theatre Festival. La Salle Academy was the first Rhode Island private high school and only the second Rhode Island high school to have been selected in the 14 years that the American High School Theatre Festival has participated in the Fringe Festival.

I am especially pleased to share that, by all reports, the young men and women of the La Salle Players conducted themselves with great talent and poise, representing both their school and their country with distinction.

I want to individually recognize the cast and crew, faculty, and staff, who were instrumental to this effort: Brother Michael McKenery, the president of La Salle Academy, served as producer. The student cast and crew included Trisha Moise, Tiia Groden, Gabbie Whitney, John Pleasants, Dan Tracy, John Coletta, Nick Oliveira, Nick Montecalvo, Ryan Zins, Cam Burns, Matt Petrarca, Mark Sullivan, Valentina Szlashta, Michael Commendatore, Alex Schlageter, Sean Walsh, Kevin Cronin, Molly B. Allen, Katie Ryan, Emily Maher, Colin Whitney, Ashley Smith, Stephen Zukauskas, JR McKenzie, and Michael Gebhart. Faculty and staff included Thomas Haynes, Elissa Cerros, Margaret Hayes, and David Cabral.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF WUOM-FM

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with pleasure that I, along with my Michigan colleague, Senator STABENOW, congratulate WUOM-FM on 60 years of successful broadcasting. Over the past six decades, WUOM-FM, the University of Michigan's flagship public radio station, has become a fixture in public broadcasting, distinguishing itself through the breath and depth of its programming and through its unwavering dedication and service to its many listeners throughout southeastern Michigan.

Since its inception as a small radio station broadcasting in the Ann Arbor area, WUOM-FM has been a consistent and important voice in public radio in Michigan. In 1950, WUOM broadcasted its first Michigan Football game, a tradition it would enjoy for the next 50 years, and in 1958, it broadcasted its

first Detroit Symphony Orchestra performance from the Ford Auditorium. Two years later, Michigan Radio broadcasted Senator John F. Kennedy's famous campaign speech at the University of Michigan, where he spoke about public service as a responsibility of freedom, a speech that helped to bring about the creation of the Peace Corps. In 1971, WUOM joined National Public Radio and became one of the first radio stations to air ''All Things Considered''.

WUOM has grown and evolved since its first public broadcast on July 5, 1948. Today, Michigan Radio, which includes WUOM, WVGR and WFUM, broadcasts from Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Flint, respectively, and enjoys the largest listening audience of any public radio station in the State and is among the leaders nationally. Michigan Radio's programming format changed from classical music to a news and information format in 1996. With this change one thing has remained the same: the superb quality of each and every broadcast segment. With more than 400,000 listeners tuning in each week, Michigan Radio has become an important source of news and information about local, state, national and world affairs for the listening public.

As technology has evolved, so has Michigan Radio. Today, it is broadcasted in high definition and is accessible from mobile devices across Michigan. Listeners can tune in to programming from National Public Radio, Public Radio International, and the BBC, as well as local programs, such as the Environment Report and Jack Lessenberry's Essays and Interviews.

WUOM has been the recipient of many awards throughout its history. In the past year alone, Michigan Radio has earned more than 30 awards. The most notable was the 2008 National Edward R. Murrow Award for Best News Documentary, which was awarded for ''Ashes to Hope: Overcoming the Detroit Riots.''

Michigan Radio has forged an impressive reputation for quality programming, public service, and integrity. It is in this spirit that we know our Senate colleagues join us in congratulating each individual who has contributed to the success of WUOM-FM over the past 60 years, dedicating endless hours, energy, and hard work in pursuit of excellence in public broadcasting. I wish them another 60 years of outstanding achievement.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an email address set up for these stories to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Priority: Explore in this country for oil

How do high fuel prices affect me and my family? We do not travel nearly as much as before. I am telecommuting one day a week. We have cut out all spending except the bare essentials. We are worried about losing jobs as the economy continues to collapse.

I have no doubt that the fuel prices will continue to increase as the extremists in this country continue to sabotage efforts to tap local fuel sources. They are diligent in their efforts to slowly undermine and destroy this country. Unfortunately, there is no hope that they will be stopped. I am doing what I can to not spend as much on fuel, such as using a wood stove for heat in the winter. Of course, the natural gas-fired furnaces are cleaner-burning, but the extremists do not consider that when they ban mining for gas and oil and, in a roundabout way, drive up the price of everything. Wood for the stove is very cheap or free.

I would use fossil-fuel-free transportation more than I already do if the roadways were safer for that. I could use my horses to get around, but the city codes and the highways are not set up for that. Other people are trying to use bikes. I saw a smashed bike in front of a large vehicle in the middle of a busy road today. The ambulance was just getting to the scene. Not too safe to use bikes.

If nothing effective can be done to bring down fuel prices, then the roadways need to be set up for using horses and carts and bicycles and foot traffic. City codes need to be changed to allow the use of horses and other draft animals. That was the most effective method of transportation before the invention of cars, and draft animals are used in other countries that do not have fossil-fuel-fired vehicles. It is extreme, but all I see are fuel prices going up so fast that quickly most people will not be able to get around. Bicycles are limited as to how much stuff you can haul. So draft animals are the only way.

With the short-sighted ban on horse slaughter, there are now way too many horses around being abandoned and given away. It is the perfect solution: A lot of these unwanted horses can be used for transportation as soon as city codes and CC&R's are changed to allow people to keep horses on small land parcels. I have a few acres and pasture for my horses, but a lot of people do not have that. I cannot use my horses to go to the big towns because the roads are suited for high-speed cars, not for horses. My horses and I would end up like that bike I saw today, twisted and crumpled in the road in front of some large car.

CAROLE, *Kuna.*

Thank you for the opportunity to state briefly how higher energy processes are impacting my own life. I like to think of myself as well-educated, environmentally responsible, and having control of my life and my family finances. We are fiscally responsible. We try to live to an established budget. We pay our bills on time, and we set aside money for a rainy day. However, with today's skyrocketing gas prices and energy costs, I do not think we are going to be able to sustain our current lifestyle any longer. We have made cuts where we can. We have tried to reduce the number of trips we need to take in our vehicles, but just doing that is not nearly enough. We have had to cut out some of our luxuries such as cable television. Given what is presented on television these days, that was not too much of a sacrifice, either. Now we are starting to wonder if we will be able to get enough food on the table, or keep our kids in the clothes that they need. We have 3 growing children, and it seems their clothes only fit for a few weeks. Now we are considering reducing the amounts we contribute to our 401K investment plan, cutting out family vacations, and working more hours.

It is funny how the things that are most important in life such as spending time with your children are the things that must suffer because of the condition of the economy. It is frustrating that we are having to cut the investments we are trying to make in our future just to make ends meet today. Further, every bill seems to be going up, and my salary is not increasing at all. We feel lucky to have a job at all as there have been many who have been laid off where I work. We might be considered upper middle class, but I wonder how much longer this will last as the economy and government policies are slowly driving all of us into poverty.

There are a lot of things in the world to worry about. For the sake of my children, I hate to see this direction we are heading in. Also, I am disappointed at how [some of] our lawmakers in Washington, D.C., wish to play politics, but do not seem to have any intentions on fixing the problems. All we see right now [is partisian] posturing just to win votes, economy be damned. They like to tell themselves that they have our best interests in mind, but given the lack of action, I am starting to wonder what good it is to have a government at all. How bad are things going to get before someone starts doing something about it?

What can be done about it? I think we need to step it up on several fronts. We need more gas and oil production here at home. We need to encourage more conservation. We need to demand car companies increase their mpg. We need to actively encourage nuclear power production and stop listening to all the crazy special interest groups that are out there. We need to stop worrying about an international war that is literally draining all of our resources. We have got to stop worrying about universal healthcare and everything else that will not succeed if we do not have a sound economy. Let us get focused and do it now. If we do not, it will be too little, too late.

Thanks for taking a minute to listen to my story. I was starting to wonder if any of our politicians knew we were out here.

JEFF, *Iona.*

It goes something like this. I am on Social Security Disability, and my mother and stepfather, aunts, and uncles are on Social Security. In the last ten years, the increase in benefits has been around 2.5% each year. Rent has increased 35%; gas, 50%+; natural gas, 30%; electricity, 35%; food, 30%; and basic water fees were $18 in 1999, and now are over $40.

An economist said that the economy raising 3% per year is a good thing, did not say the price of goods/services going up was a good thing. He meant that those working getting a 3% increase in funds to spend was a good thing.

Thinking that I live on $750 per month, and bills are $350–400 per month, then trying to

have insurance to drive a car, I was suspended because I had none. And I thought I would save money by not driving. It does not work that way, as food prices have risen over one-third, which makes getting insurance or paying my fines not on the top of my list. [I may need to rely on friends to drive me to Twin Falls to purchase groceries.]

I understand that things are changing, but I need to ask: how much profit is enough? I also think we should go back to the stipend system for elected officials. Those that lead this government should not be doing it for the money; it should be for the honor of the position.

I would also think that the government running its own business in competition to show a profit for tax relief would be a great way to show corps that it can be done, and it would force the lowering of prices. I think it would be cool to run a state-funded cellphone system, in areas not accessible to cell. The fees could be used for taxes, as well selling the towers for profit to the cellphone corps. Force the suppliers to compete.

ED.

While no one wants to pay more for anything, and most people are glad to have things for cheap or free, there comes a time to pay what the true value of energy is. Americans have been pretty lucky to pay low energy costs for as long as we have and we have become convinced that cheap energy is our God-given right.

Unfortunately, cheap energy comes at a cost, and future generations have been subsidizing our cheap energy. It is sad that we have been willing to pass the bill on to them in terms of pollution and the national debt. Since our military is in essence used to secure oil, that is another hidden costs that most people do not realize that someone will have to pay.

I do not think paying more for fuel is such a bad thing because I think most people overuse fuel. People need to be more considerate in fuel use, and if higher prices will reduce fuel use, then so be it.

As a farmer who grows food for my local community, higher fuel price actually means I can charge more for the food I grow since food prices are increasing everywhere. I have low transportation costs, so I will actually make more money as a result. I cannot complain about that.

If you sincerely want to do something about energy prices, Senator Crapo, then I suggest you promote the development of local economies, There is no need to ship and truck things from halfway around the world when, in reality, we can be producing what we need locally. That will reduce fuel use, which will lower demand, which will lower prices. We will also be reducing pollution and become more economically self-sufficient.

Our current system is completely unsustainable, and to complain about high fuel prices misses the point. I would much rather have you fighting for sound economic and environmental policies rather than continue to promote a system will at some point will collapse, anyway. As a leader, it is your job to make tough decisions, not pander to what seems to be selfish energy use.

Sincerely,

GARRETT, *Moscow*.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the effects that high gasoline prices are having on our family's budget. To begin with, we are a family of six: My wife Nancy and I have four children, ages 23, 21, 18, and 16. We live in Boise, and both Nancy and I commute to work on bicycles. I work for the State of Idaho, and my wife is a first grade teacher. We enjoy the jobs we have been blessed with in Boise.

Although we have received consistent salary increases, the percentages of these increases are certainly not keeping up to the increases in a lot of goods and services, and most notably, in gasoline costs.

Commuting on bicycles has saved us money and kept us in good shape, but it does have its risks! Our four children bicycle to work, college and high school. We have one main family car, and two of our children have cars. However, one of the cars is currently ''off the road'' and parked in our driveway. And the other one is destined for that, too. We still use the family car for a number of local trips, but we try to avoid or combine them when possible.

We are planning to take a trip to California in less than two weeks. Each year we take a group of people to help at a place called Gleanings for the Hungry, which is a Christian volunteer organization that processes food and ships it to hungry people all over the world.

We considered taking two vehicles for the seven people who are in our part of the team, but instead we may all crowd into our minivan in order to save gas money and wear and tear on the other car.

So, Senator, these are the ways that the high gas prices have affected us. I do not think that we will see lower gas prices again, so it is time for all of us to use our ''Yankee Ingenuity'' and make the best of this situation.

Sincerely,

KEN.

I am not surprised in the least that the situation is what it is. Actually, I am a little surprised that energy costs are not much higher at this time. I have been in contact with my Federal Representative, the Honorable Mike Simpson, regarding your update letter, namely, the high cost of gasoline, and energy in general. I sent him a link to a speech given in 2006, by a man that was present, for three years, on the building of the Alaska pipeline. His words were, ''. . . I am considering your suggestion to accelerate completion of the Alaskan pipeline with great interest.'' What say you, Senator?

The oil reserves that we hold are more than sufficient, to not only bring our pump prices down, but also allow us to pay off our outrageous, $9.3 Trillion national debt, in the space of five years, and allow us to consume oil for the next 200 years or so (at least!). Perhaps you, Senator Crapo, would be willing to watch this video. You, too, will be enlightened, as I have been by this knowledge, and perhaps will be persuaded to come to the aid of your country, in our darkest hour. This is a link to the video—http://wideeyecinema.com/?p=203.

CURT, *Boise*.

Being a sort of forward-looking individual, in 2005 we purchased a Volkswagen Jetta with a diesel engine. It is a wonderful little car, but the unique thing about it is that it gets fifty as in 50 miles per gallon. Now I have watched as our illustrious leadership have mollycoddled the automobile makers here in the U.S. and even actually required the raising of the automobile mileage here in this country to a measly 35 miles per gallon average for vehicles. This when vehicles running on diesel already get way more than that! Now we do not drive that much because of gas and diesel prices, but since I can drive nearly 700 miles on a 14-gallon tank of gas, how often do you think we fill up? Admittedly, the prices of a tank of gas amaze us each time we do fill up, but still, we can, and often do, go a month without buying diesel. Even if I were to drive to ''town'' every day, I could drive almost half a month without filling up!

While such action by our leadership I guess is to be expected, I would like to know when [Congress] will ever get enough gumption to provide leadership for this nation? As a sort of forward-looking individual, I guess it would be fair to say that waiting for anyone living and working within the Beltway to provide any kind of leadership on energy is probably a moot point. While [partisan battles cloud everything,] the world forges ahead, trying hard to ignore the lack of ability to get anything done.

We hire you (elect you) to provide leadership, guide the country in and out of crises but, to be quite frank, [I am extremely disappointed in the partisanship that seems to permeate everything that happens in Congress]. The congressional confidence level is, as you know, at the lowest level ever. Somebody has to do something—even if it is wrong!

Since I do not work in your environment, I do not have a remedy for the environment of ''do nothing'' that seems pervasive in the Beltway. I do believe, however, that all influence from well-paid lobbyists and those with more money that they know what to do with should be put in some kind of less effective position relative to policy influence. While I understand that people need to be able to contact the people representing them, they should be limited to doing so only by the same means as the rest of us who do not and cannot have someone following legislators around influencing them at every turn.

Sorry, Senator, to rant about this on your forum for high energy prices. But I do not think [the current leadership] has or is providing any leadership in this or a variety of other areas. It seems as if we, the public, have to solve our own problems while Congress muddles around [in partisan bickering.] I have a car that gets 50 miles per gallon of fuel—what does your car get? What do your staff cars get? How many of you use any of the many kinds of ''commuter'' transportation available within the beltway?

Have a good day—please try and help us working on the energy problem solve it!

RAYMOND and SHERRY.

Today I filled ¾ of my car's gas tank. It cost $80 plus. Need I say more?

GRANT, *Boise*.

Thank you for expressing an interest in the situation of one family here in Lewiston. Any time we plan to drive somewhere, we give more thought to the need for the trip and whether it can be postponed or eliminated. In deciding whether to travel, the miles to be driven and our estimated fuel consumption (cost) are discussed. My wife works at LCSC (Lewis Clark State College). Instead of my driving her to her office, I now walk with her to work. The walk saves fuel and gives us time together. Now that the summer air conditioning season is here, we are keeping the thermostat at about 75 deg. If the electric bill is much higher we will raise the thermostat again. With the increased cost of groceries, we are starting to shop in Clarkston, WA; i.e. no state sales tax. Instead of eating out several times a week, we may only go out once now. When getting gasoline, I limit my purchase to about $20, or, about 5 gallons.

We spend a lot of time trying to figure out why in a country with so many natural resources and safe nuclear power we are not developing addition resources for the benefit of the population. Why is an ever expanding polar bear population more important than American citizens?

Thanks for expressing an interest.

AL and HOLLY.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING KOJO NNAMDI'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the 10th anniversary of Kojo Nnamdi broadcasting on the American University's WAMU 88.5. Over the course of the last decade, based on his skills as an interviewer and his keen insight, Nnamdi has grown into a national treasure and one of the most respected broadcasters in the National Capital Region. ''The Kojo Nnamdi Show'' features 2 hours of news, political issues, and social trends of the day in a magazine program format.

It is hard to remember a time before Kojo Nnamdi was part of the WAMU 88.5 broadcasting family, but it was just 10 years ago, in 1998, when Nnamdi left his host position at WHUT–TV's public affairs show ''Evening Exchange'' to become the host of WAMU's radio program ''Public Interest.'' He replaced former host Derek McGinty, filling a vibrant radio talk show slot that can be traced back to 1977 with Fred Fiske. The program officially was renamed ''The Kojo Nnamdi Show'' in September 2002.

Nnamdi was born Rex Paul in Guyana. He came to this country in 1967 to attend college. He began broadcasting in 1973 at WHUR–FM and chose his radio persona based on the Akan word for Monday—Kojo—and Nnamdi Azikiwe, a fellow journalist and the founder of modern Nigerian nationalism who was the first President of Nigeria.

Nnamdi's global perspective and inviting demeanor have made his radio program a must-do for both regional and national leaders. Each weekday, he challenges his guests and call-in audience alike to explore a variety of current and emerging topics relevant to our daily lives. As good a listener as he is an interviewer, Nnamdi opens our consciousness to new ideas. He is so highly skilled that the Washington Post has called him, ''maybe the best interviewer in town.''

Locally, Nnamdi has become one of the foremost experts on the political and social scenes of Annapolis, Richmond, and Washington, DC. On Fridays, 1 hour of his show is renamed ''The Politics Hour'' while he opens his airwaves to the region's elected officials, community activists and local leaders. I personally have looked forward to joining Nnamdi for his show time and again.

As Kojo Nnamdi enters his second decade broadcasting at WAMU 88.5, I take great pride in joining with countless others in our community and across the Nation in congratulating him on this milestone. I listen with anticipation for his next topic and his next guest who will help open our minds and further our dialog.•

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTIN GUITAR FACTORY

• Mr. CASEY. Mr President, today I congratulate the Martin Guitar Factory, in Nazareth, PA, on celebrating 175 years of successful guitar making. C.F. Martin & Co. has continually produced the highest level of craftsmanship, design, quality, and tone for the acoustic guitar for over a century and a half.

Established in 1833, the Martin Guitar Factory has been at the leading edge of guitar manufacturing for six generations. The founder of Martin Guitar, Christian Frederick Martin, Sr., was born in 1796 in Germany and began the craft at the young age of 15. Since the guild system in Germany limited the opportunities for guitar production, C.F. Martin, Sr., decided to emigrate to the United States in the 1830s. Martin Guitar set up shop in New York City for 6 years before finally settling in the Lehigh Valley in 1839. After a century and a half of success in guitar manufacturing, C.F. Martin & Co. continues to produce the finest quality American acoustic guitars today. Each year, Martin Guitar manufactures and ships approximately 170,000 guitars all over the world and welcomes over 21,000 visitors to its factory in Nazareth, Northampton County. Martin Guitars have been played by some of our Nation's greats, such as Elvis and Johnny Cash, and are still being played today by Eric Clapton, Beck, Willie Nelson, and John Mayer, to name just a few.

In addition to Martin Guitar's accomplishments and I believe this is key, the company has demonstrated incredible staying power through six generations. C.F. Martin & Co. is the oldest surviving manufacturer of guitars in the world and is thus an extraordinary model to other businesses. I am proud to say that C.F. Martin & Co. has long been and will remain a vital staple of the Lehigh Valley.

Special recognition for this anniversary belongs to the sixth generation chairman and CEO Mr. Christian F. Martin IV, and the hard-working staff of Martin Guitar, for continuing the long standing tradition of crafting America's finest acoustic guitars. It is with great pride that I congratulate the Martin Guitar Factory on 175 outstanding years of achievement. •

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FULWIDER

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I congratulate Mr. Bob Fulwider as he nears the end of his term as the 103rd chairman of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, IIABA. Mr. Fulwider was elected to the IIABA's executive committee in 2002, and was installed as the association's chairman last September.

Founded in 1896, IIABA, or the Big ''I'' as it is better known, is the Nation's oldest and largest association of independent insurance agents and brokers, representing a network of more than 300,000 agents, brokers, and their employees. During his term as chairman of the Big ''I'', Bob Fulwider has been a leader on a number of issues for the association including regulatory reform and natural disaster insurance. Perhaps most importantly, during this year's consideration of the farm bill and specifically its impact on crop insurance, Mr. Fulwider was a forceful advocate for his association who led with professionalism and determination.

Mr. Fulwider has over his lifetime built two financial and insurance planning service businesses throughout eastern Iowa including West Liberty and West Branch, IA. Mr. Fulwider is also a former national board director and a past president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Iowa, IIAI.

Mr. Fulwider has been honored with several national and state awards. He has been honored with two IIABA Presidential Citations—in 1987 and 1994. He was named IIAI Agent of the Year in 1993 and received the association's ''Mr. Chairman'' Award in the same year. He also received the Agent of the Year Award in 1990. He is the first honoree in the Iowa association's history to receive the award twice. In 2002, Mr. Fulwider was honored with the Sydney O. Smith Award, IIABA's highest individual government affairs honor. In 2003 he was named to the Iowa Insurance Hall of Fame.

In addition, Mr. Fulwider is extremely active in his community. After graduating from Iowa State University, he taught in Iowa public high schools and served on the Iowa State University faculty prior to entering the insurance business. Mr. Fulwider is past president of the Muscatine County Economic Development Council and training director and board member of the Iowa Council—Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Fulwider has served as Scoutmaster of his local troop for 25 years and has received numerous Scouting awards including the Silver Beaver. Additionally, he is active in his church and Masonic Lodge.

I want to thank Bob Fulwider for his work with the IIABA over the years and for his commitment to his profession, his community, and our state of Iowa. His efforts are greatly appreciated. I am proud to count Bob as both a constituent and a friend. I wish him, his wife Jan, and their family all the best in their future endeavors.•

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the American Society of Hematology, which is observing its 50th anniversary this year, and to salute the advances hematologists have been able to make

in biomedical research, largely as a result of the funding for the National Institutes of Health that many of us in the Senate fight for each year.

The American Society of Hematologists—ASH—represents more than 15,000 clinicians and scientists committed to the study and treatment of blood and blood-related diseases, including blood cancers, bleeding and clotting diseases, and hereditary disorders. Hematologists have made remarkable contributions to the advancement of biomedical research and are active participants in NIH biomedical research programs, recipients of NIH grants, and contributors to NIH's biomedical research accomplishments. I am pleased to note that some of this groundbreaking research is being conducted in Iowa by ASH member Dr. George Weiner and his team at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa.

Hematologists have been at the forefront of some of the most remarkable advancements in medicine over the past half century. ASH members have turned Federal research dollars into effective treatments for diseases that were once disabling or a death sentence, and have been pioneers in the fields of bone marrow transplantation and gene therapy.

By the NIH's own estimates, the overall 5-year survival rate for childhood cancers rose to nearly 80 percent during the 1990s from under 60 percent in the 1970s. A diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia was fatal for every child who developed it in the 1960s, but today, after new combinations of drugs were developed by hematology researchers, and aggressive treatment of the brain and spinal fluid were incorporated, approximately 80 percent of children with the disease are cured.

NIH also notes that the emergence of new, more precise ways to treat cancer, such as drugs that target abnormal proteins in cancer cells, have contributed to a dramatic increase in the average life expectancy for Americans. Again, hematologists have been at the forefront of these discoveries.

Acute promyelocytic leukemia—APL—was once described as the most malignant form of acute leukemia. Today, the treatment of APL has become a model for treating cancer with targeted therapy. In combination with chemotherapy, targeted treatment has significantly improved survival in patients with APL and raised remission rates to about 85 percent.

In the 1950s the only treatment for chronic myelogenous leukemia—CML—was radiation of the spleen, granting patients about 30 months of survival. Analysis of the CML-specific chromosomal translocation allowed the development of imatinib, a gene-targeting drug that is the paradigm for a new generation of ''smart'' drugs that allow disease-specific therapy. Using this non toxic oral drug, more than 75 percent of patients diagnosed with CML achieve a durable, complete cytogenetic remission.

I have consistently fought for increases to NIH annual budget, and will continue to due so to ensure that hematologists and researchers around the Nation continue to have the resources necessary to lead in new fields of biomedical investigation and translate new scientific discoveries into improved diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive strategies.

Again, I salute the American Society of Hematology for a magnificent first 50 years. With continued NIH funding, I am confident that hematologists will have even greater successes in treating and eliminating blood diseases over the next 50 years.●

COMMENDING ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Allamakee Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin Grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Allamakee Community School District received a 2004 Harkin Grant totaling $394,382 for a collaborative project addressing a myriad of needs throughout the community. After eight failed efforts to pass a referendum to make improvements to the high school, it was time to think outside the box.

Community leaders established the PRIDE committee to undertake a comprehensive planning process that looked at the needs of the school district as well as those of the community. The result was a proposal to renovate the high school and build an addition to the existing building. The committee also recommended building a new facility across the street from the high school to house a satellite center for Northeast Iowa Community College, a community wellness center, a senior center, and a youth center. This project was a unique partnership between the school district, city, county and community college. And their hard work paid off with the passage of a $10 million bond issue approved by 78 percent of the voters.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the patrons, staff, administration, and governance in the Allamakee Community School District.

I would like to recognize a number of individuals for their outstanding leadership on the project, in particular, members of the Allamakee PRIDE Committee—Michael Meyers from Veterans Memorial Hospital, Dave Martin from Martin Funeral Home, Dennis Lyons from Farmers and Merchant's Bank, Joe Cunningham from the Waukon City Council, Patty Fosaaen from the Allamakee Board of Education, superintendent of schools David Herold and former superintendent of schools John Speer. I would also like to recognize members of the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors—Kathy Campbell, Lenny Burke, and the late Bill Clark; members of the Board of Education—President Tom Baxter, Bob Hager, Scott Melcher, Dwight Watkins and former member Sheryl Evanson; members of the Waukon City Council—former mayor Dwight Jones, Steve Wiedner, Rod Peterson and former members Drew Hager and Duane DeWalle; and several key school district administrators—buildings and grounds manager Dennis Mahr, business manager Janice Rea, junior high principal Joe Griffith and assistant high school principal Bob Wasson. Finally, I would recognize some of the personnel responsible for grant writing and for the bond referendum—Safe Schools/Healthy Students project director Barb Winters, elementary principal Ann Hart, Gail Prestemon from Waukon State Bank, Mary Jo Meyer from Farm Bureau Financial Services and Allamakee Community School District librarian Linda Groe.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin School Grant Program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Allamakee Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

COMMENDING BOONE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers administrators, and school board members in the Boone Community School District and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Boone Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling $183,500. The grant helped the district renovate and convert several classrooms at the high school into state-of-the-art science labs, install technology infrastructure at a new middle school, and provide a fiber optic connection to Franklin Elementary School, to provide high speed Internet access. This project provides the type of facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Boone Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the members of the school board, Dr. Jeff Anderson, Pam Boehm, Everett Johnson, Kirk Leeds and Brad O'Neal and former members Stan Brandmeyer, Jim Malloy, and Paulette Newbold. I would also recognize superintendent Dr. Theron Schutte, high school principal Dave Kapfer, former middle school principal Nate Heying, Franklin principal Dan Gould, technology coordinator Bog Patterson, director of buildings and grounds Dean Berkland, and John Haila from Haila Engineering.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Boone Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

COMMENDING CLEAR CREEK EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Clear Creek Amana Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Clear Creek Amana Community School District received a 2005 Harkin grant totaling $500,000, which it used to help build North Bend Elementary School in North Liberty. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent new schools like North Bend Elementary do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the dedicated educators in the Clear Creek Amana School District, which serves the towns of Tiffin, Oxford and North Liberty, as well as the historic Amana Colonies. The district has 1,420 students in grades K–12, and is growing steadily. It takes great pride in its teaching staff of 118 fully certified teachers, more than 30 percent of whom have been with the district at least 15 years. To have so many long-serving teachers is unusual in education today, and it speaks volumes about the quality of this school district, as well as the dedication and loyalty of its teaching staff.

I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Clear Creek Amana district. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of Lisa Green-Douglas and Jeanne Goldsmith who served as the cochairs of the committee that won passage of the $25.5 million bond issue to build a new elementary school and a new high school in the district. I would also like to recognize the members of the school board: Jim Seelman, Don Schaapveld, Tim Hennes, Kathi Huebner, Kevin Kinney, Elizabeth Momany, Matthew Croco, and Kathy Zimmerman as well as Superintendent Paula Vincent and elementary school principal Brenda Parker.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Clear Creek Amana School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

COMMENDING DAVIS COUNTRY EDUCATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Davis County Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Davis County Community School District received a 2003 Harkin grant for $498,000 to help remodel the north entrance of the high school. The district also received two fire safety grants totaling $161,000 to make needed repairs to buildings throughout the district. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Davis County Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the Board of Education—President Marty Owen, Vice President Ken Wuthrich, Edward Reese, Jr., Rob Melvin, Susan Knapp, Rita Grob, and Rob Lynch. I would also like to recognize Superintendent Sam Miller and former Superintendent Anne Morgan.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Davis County Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.

COMMENDING INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Independence Community School District and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Independence Community School District received two Harkin grants totaling $450,000. A 1999 fire safety grant for $100,000 was used to install smoke detectors and replace doors at the high school. A 2005 grant totaling $350,000 was used to help build the Early Childhood Center to provide five classrooms for prekindergarten programs. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Independence Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education, President Dawnye Sturtz, Vice President K.C. Robb, Joseph Olsen, Charlie McCardle, and John Christiansen; former board members, Martin Brown, Kevin Greenley, Bob Reiff, and Shelly Whited, as well as elementary principal Dr. Mary Jean Blaisdell and Superintendent Devin Embray.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultramodern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have got to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Independence Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.•

COMMENDING PERRY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Perry Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Perry Community School District received Harkin grants totaling $505,095 which it used to help build two

additions at the high school to provide additional classrooms and administrative offices and to make fire safety repairs in the middle school. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.

Excellent new schools like Perry High School do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Perry Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—President Dave Menz, Vice President Kathy Powell, Dan Wilhelmi, Darek Vankirk, Scott Seeley, board secretary Nancy Gee and board treasurer Dwayne Hochhalter and former board members—Gary Huitt, Kent Feiedrichsen, Larry Lyons, Rudy Zagar, board secretary Mary Boege, Chuck Painter, Shirley Keenan-Allyn and board secretary Dean Stumbo. I would also like to recognize Superintendent Randall McCaulley, former Superintendent Ellen Wrzeski, high school principal Dan Marburger and the Kids 2000 Committee.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Perry Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them and wish them a very successful new school year.●

REMEMBERING WALTER C. ''BUD'' O'MEARA

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I honor today the memory of Walter C. ''Bud'' O'Meara, a teacher, coach, and good friend who passed away on August 3, 2008. I am deeply saddened by Walter's death and will keep his friends and family in my thoughts during this difficult time.

Growing up in my hometown of Stamford, CT, Walter spent most of his free time at the local YMCA, where he developed a passion for sports. While attending Stamford High School—SHA—in the 1930s, Walter was captain of the basketball team and an all state quarterback. His abilities on the football field earned him a scholarship to Notre Dame, the most storied program in the history of college football, where he played under Coach Elmer Layden, one of the Four Horsemen.

After graduating from Notre Dame, Walter joined the U.S. Navy, where he would become a lieutenant in the Naval Air Corps. While in the Navy, Walter married his wife, Grace, whom he had met on a blind date. They would remain married until Grace's death in 2005. As a member of Air Group 19, Walter flew bombers in the Pacific Combat Zone during the Second World War and was awarded the Air Medal for his service. Walter would keep in touch with his friends from Air Group 19 throughout his life.

After the war, Walter returned to SHS as a teacher and coach. In 1958, he was named head football coach, and proceeded to lead Stamford High to back-to-back State championships in 1958 and 1959. In addition to his duties as football coach, Walter also coached American Legion Baseball for 9 years. Again, Walter proved adept at getting the most out of his athletes, producing five State championship teams, and two regional champions.

While his teams' accomplishments on the field are certainly impressive, Coach O'Meara's greatest contribution to Stamford High was the constant source of friendship and support he provided his students. Years later, his players still fondly recall the influence he had on them not just on the playing field but in life as well. When I attended SHS, all students, whether athletes or not, knew that Coach O'Meara was someone they could approach whenever they needed assistance.

When he retired from coaching, Walter continued to serve as an administrator at SHS and managed the Roxbury Swimming and Tennis Club for over 25 years. He also worked as a professional football scout for 9 years.

However busy Walter was, he always made time for his family and friends. Those who knew him best said that no matter his professional success, his greatest pride was reserved for his 6 daughters, 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

While I will miss my good friend Walter O'Meara, I take solace that his example will live on in all of us who were lucky to have known him.●

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNUAL DICK LUGAR FITNESS FESTIVAL

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I appreciate this opportunity to share my gratitude for the remarkable work of the students and staff at Indianapolis's Butler University over our 30-year partnership in encouraging fitness and health awareness in central Indiana.

This Saturday, September 13, 2008, I will have the privilege of joining my friends and fellow Hoosiers at the 30th Annual Dick Lugar Community Walk, Run and Health Fair, held on the attractive grounds of Butler University. This festival was inaugurated in May of 1979 in order to highlight the positive benefits of fitness and nutrition to members of the local community. From the very beginning, this initiative was designed to appeal to a wide spectrum of people. Youth and families were encouraged to participate in an effort to reach out beyond the normal universe of running enthusiasts and to capitalize on those who could serve as a model for young people. With the inclusion of the health fair our partnership strove to engage older adults as well. And in 1983, the festivities began to include a Health and Fitness Award, given in recognition of individuals and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to the community in these important areas.

The Fitness Festival remains an event I look forward to with excitement each year. The running and racewalk competitions, the health fair with local experts and organizations in attendance, and the general fellowship all promise to be especially memorable in this signal year. Accordingly, I would like to take special care in highlighting those most responsible for the festival's perennial success.

Butler University and its dedicated president, Dr. Bobby Fong, deserve considerable praise. The university's eagerness to not only host, but embrace this opportunity to promote the benefits of a fit and healthy lifestyle reminds me of why Hoosiers are so proud of our colleges and universities' roles in improving the quality of life for individuals throughout Indiana. Thanks must also be given to the Butler students and faculty, and the community members who volunteer as organizers and race workers; the individuals who devote their experience and expertise at the health fair booths; the city of Indianapolis and Marion County for logistical support; other supporting organizations, whose generosity and commitment to health awareness in the Indianapolis community is highly commendable; and the thousands of individuals who have participated in the Fitness Festival over the course of its life.

It is important that as citizens we do what we can at the Federal, State, and community levels to promote the benefits of leading healthy lifestyles. This auspicious occasion provides a wonderful opportunity to commend Butler University for its efforts in this regard.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I would like to honor the important and national contributions of the Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, MO, on its 100th anniversary.

When the school opened its doors on September 14, 1908, it became the world's first school of journalism. The University Missourian published its first issue that day, exemplifying the school's ''Missouri Method'' of hands-on training at multiple professional media outlets affiliated with the school. In fact, the school still operates the only network-affiliated television newsroom in the country designed as a teaching facility.

The school's pioneering endeavors continued in 1921 and 1934 with the awarding of the first master's and doctoral degrees in journalism. And now more than 20,000 alumni from all over the world have become leaders in journalism, mass communication, and academe.

The free press plays an integral role in our society, as a champion of freedom and watchdog of liberty. The achievements of this school are a mark of pride for its students and faculty, for Missouri, and the Nation. I congratulate the school on the celebration of its 100th anniversary and look forward to future groundbreaking endeavors from the school's leadership, faculty, alumni, and students.

TRIBUTE TO THE MALCOLM GROW MEDICAL CENTER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the great services that the Malcolm Grow Medical Center has done for this country. Malcolm Grow celebrated its 50th anniversary on July 31, 2008, and in those 50 years, it has provided medical care for those serving in the U.S. Air Force as well as their families. They follow in the proud tradition of medicine which their namesake developed.

MG Malcolm C. Grow was the first surgeon general of the U.S. Air Force, serving from July 1 to November 30, 1949. In 1943, General Grow received the Legion of Merit for developing body armor to protect combat crews. His research led the way in developing a light body armor and steel helmet that saved many lives and improved our fighters' morale.

Today there are 372,200 eligible beneficiaries within 40 miles of the Malcolm Grow Medical Center. On a typical day, Malcolm Grow providers see 930 outpatients, 90 dental patients, 72 emergency room patients and has 5 inpatients. Staff complete seven surgical procedures and perform two deliveries. The Aeromedical Staging Flight takes care of 30 patients transitioning through the National Capital Region and carries out 1,963 pharmacy procedures. In 2007, Malcolm Grown oversaw over 10,400 patient and attendant movements alone.

General Grow's innovative spirit has lived on at the Malcolm Grow Medical Center as it celebrates its 50th birthday. They are the East Coast hub for aeromedical evacuation and provide health care services to our Nation's top leaders. I am proud to honor the great contribution which this facility has made to our service members, our Armed Forces, and our Nation.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE STATING THAT THE STATUTORY PREREQUISITE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IS NO LONGER SATISFIED, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 123 B. OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954, FOR THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TRANSMITTED TO THE SENATE ON MAY 13, 2008—PM 62

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

On May 13, 2008, I transmitted a message to the Congress transmitting the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the ''proposed Agreement''), pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153 (b), (d)) (the ''Act'').

In view of recent actions by the Government of the Russian Federation incompatible with peaceful relations with its sovereign and democratic neighbor Georgia, I have determined that the determination regarding the proposed Agreement in Presidential Determination 2008–19 is no longer effective. Accordingly, a statutory prerequisite for the proposed Agreement to become effective, as required by section 123 b. of the Act, is no longer satisfied. If circumstances should permit future reconsideration of the proposed Agreement, a new determination will be made and the proposed Agreement will be submitted for congressional review pursuant to section 123 of the Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 8, 2008*.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING RECESS

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 1, 2008, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 3370. An act to resolve pending claims against Libya by United States nationals, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bill was signed on August 1, 2008, during the recess of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 4, 2008, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2245. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood 'Bud' Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

H.R. 4137. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4210. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Washington Avenue in Weldon, North Carolina, as the ''Dock M. Brown Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4918. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the ''Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

H.R. 5477. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 South Del Mar Avenue in San Gabriel, California, as the ''Chi Mui Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5483. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the ''Private First Class David H. Sharrett II Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5631. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the ''Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6061. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 East Main Street in West Frankfort, Illinois, as the ''Kenneth James Gray Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6085. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6150. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6340. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Quarropas Street in White Plains, New York, as the ''Charles L.

Brieant, Jr., Federal Building and United States Courthouse''.

H.R. 6432. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the animal drug user fee program, to establish a program of fees relating to generic new animal drugs, to make certain technical corrections to the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6580. An act to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitations on contributions to funeral trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 3294. An act to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission.

S. 3295. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bills were signed on August 4, 2008, during the recess of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6599. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

MEASURES DISCHARGED DURING RECESS

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Foreign Relations, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2159, and placed on the Calendar:

S.J. Res. 42. Joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5057. An act to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3430. A bill to provide for the investigation of certain unsolved civil rights crimes, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6599. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

On August 1, 2008:

S. 3370. An act to resolve pending claims against Libya by United States nationals, and for other purposes.

On August 5, 2008:

S. 3294. An act to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission.

S. 3295. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7371. A communication from the Director, Policy Issuance Division, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Availability of Lists of Retail Consignees During Meat or Poultry Product Recalls'' (RIN0583–AD10) received on August 1, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7372. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling of Beef, Pork, Lamb, Chicken, Goat Meat, Perishable Agricultural Commodities, Peanuts, Pecans, Ginseng, and Macadamia Nuts'' (Doc. No. AMS–LS–07–0081) (RIN 0581–AC26) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7373. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Citrus Canker, Movement of Fruit From a Quarantined Area; Bag Markings'' (Docket No. APHIS–2008–0080) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7374. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7375. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the Department's decision to convert to contract the aircraft maintenance, administration, and corrosion control functions currently performed by 375 military personnel at various locations Navy-wide; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7376. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (15) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the next higher grade in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7377. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Item Identification and Valuation Clause Update'' (DFARS Case 2007–D007) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7378. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ship Critical Safety Items'' (DFARS Case 2007–D016) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7379. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Competition Requirements for Purchases from Federal Prison Industries'' (DFARS Case 2008–D015) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7380. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Trade Agreements—New Thresholds'' (DFARS Case 2007–D023) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7381. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a quarterly report entitled, ''Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7382. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' (73 FR 42266) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7383. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations'' (73 FR 42265) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7384. A communication from the Acting Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commission Guidance on the Use of Company Web Sites'' (Release Nos. 34–58288, IC–28351) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7385. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation Z (Truth in Lending)'' (Docket No. R–1320)

received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7386. A communication from the Administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Transportation Statistics Annual Report 2007''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7387. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule for Amendment 89 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area to Implement the Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Measures'' (RIN0648–AW06) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7388. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Coast Groundfish; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–AX02) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7389. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Action #1 and #2'' (RIN0648–XH85) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7390. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Action #3 and #4'' (RIN0648–XH91) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7391. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish for Catcher Processors Participating in the Rockfish Limited Access Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XJ36) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7392. A communication from the Director, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to a U.S. Navy Shock Trial'' (RIN0648–AT77) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7393. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utah Regulatory Program'' (Docket No. UT–044–FOR) received on June 13, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7394. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities; Final Rule'' (Docket No. RM05–5–005; Order No. 676–C) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7395. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep (Ovis canadensis sierrae) and Taxonomic Revision'' (RIN1018–AV05) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7396. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl'' (RIN1018–AU37) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7397. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Poa atropurpurea and Taraxacum californicum'' (RIN1018–AV04) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7398. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Devils River Minnow'' (RIN1018–AV25) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7399. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Section 110(a)(1) 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base-Year Inventory for the Schuylkill County Area'' (FRL No. 8702–1) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7400. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for Arizona; Maricopa County PM–10 Nonattainment Area; Serious Area Plan for Attainment of the 24-Hour and Annual PM–10 Standards'' (FRL No. 8703–3) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7401. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Delegation of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories; State of Arizona, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality'' (FRL No. 8701–7) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7402. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Flubendiamide; Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8360–2) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7403. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8376–2) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7404. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Thifensulfuron Methyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8374–4) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7405. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tribenuron Methyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8374–5) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7406. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 422 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7407. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utility Allowances Regulations Update'' ((RIN1545–BC22)(TD 9420)) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7408. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Converting an IRA Annuity to a Roth IRA'' ((RIN1545–BE65)(TD 9481)) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7409. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''July—September 2008 Section 42 Bond Factor Amounts'' (Rev. Rul. 2008–36) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7410. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Severance of a Trust for Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Purposes'' ((RIN1545–BE70)(TD 9421)) received on August 5, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7411. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tier I Issue IRC Section 118 Abuse Directive #4'' (Uniform Issue List Number: LMSB–4–0608–034) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7412. A communication from the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the efforts being undertaken to complete the mission in Iraq successfully; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7413. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to contributions of the United States to international organizations for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7414. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report summarizing the Department's activities during calendar year 2007 under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7415. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms sold commercially in the amount of $1,000,000 or more to the United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7416. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms sold commercially in the amount of $1,000,000 or more to Mexico; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7417. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada, Israel, Australia and Italy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7418. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the Government of Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7419. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to Egypt; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7420. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7421. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to Germany, Sweden, and Spain; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7422. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services (Propulsion Shaft Seals and Pump Seal System Hardware) in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7423. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services (Radio System for the United Kingdom Nimrod MRA4 Aircraft Program) in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7424. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services (C–130 engine nacelles) in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7425. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7426. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7427. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (manufacture, supply and distribution of sporting and recreational firearms) to Belgium, Canada, Portugal and Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7428. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Have Quick II and SATURN Electronic Counter-Countermeasures) to France; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7429. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (microcontrollers for the U.S. Army's Individual High Explosive Air Burst Weapons System) to Taiwan and Malaysia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7430. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment with an original acquisition value of more than $14,000,000 to the Government of Norway; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7431. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of an application for a license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (M61A1, GAU–12/U, GAU–22/A and M197 Guns, and M89E1 Feeders) to Italy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7432. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of an application for a license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles in the amount of $50,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom, Germany, and France; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7433. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the proposed removal from the United States Munitions List of a digital transceiver that was developed for military application, but has no military specific features and now has both military and civil applications; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7434. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the proposed removal from the United States Munitions List of vessels for the containment and transportation of explosive devices that have primary applications in law enforcement and security; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7435. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: The United States Munitions List Category VIII'' (RIN1400–AC47) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7436. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged—Migrant Education Program Final Regulations'' (RIN1810–AA99) received on August 1, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7437. A communication from the Director, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes to Representation of Others Before The United States Patent and Trademark Office'' (RIN0651–AB55) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7438. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the quarterly report of the Department of Justice's Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7439. A communication from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Fiscal Year 2007 Performance Summary Report''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7440. A communication from the President, American Academy of Arts and Letters, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Academy's activities during the year ending December 31, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7441. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Elimination of Exemptions for Chemical Mixtures Containing the List I Chemicals Ephedrine and/or Pseudoephedrine'' (RIN1117–AB11) received on August, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7442. A communication from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, (4) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on August 05, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7443. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Inflation Adjustment to Size Standards, Business Loan Program, and Disaster Assistance Loan Program'' (RIN3245–AF41) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–7444. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Fuel Oil Dealers Industries'' (RIN3245–AF67) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–7445. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, the report of draft legislation, ''To amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide authority to collect license fees from persons

participating in the Packers and Stockyards Programs, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7446. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation relative to the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Federal Insecticide Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7447. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Almonds Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 981'' (Docket No. FV07–981–1) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–7448. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Navy and has been assigned case number 08-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–7449. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Army and has been assigned case number 07-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–7450. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's purchases from foreign entities in Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7451. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John A. Bradley, United States Air Force Reserve, and his placement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7452. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7453. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, the report of (18) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–7454. A communication from Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the final set of amendments to the Department's Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7455. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to amending the Export Administration Regulations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7456. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Development Investments (12 C.F.R. part 24)'' (RIN1557-AD12) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7457. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' (73 FR 44924) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7458. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Authorization to Impose License Requirements for Exports or Reexports to Entities Acting Contrary to the National Security or Foreign Policy Interests of the United States'' (RIN0694-AD82) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7459. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mandatory Electronic Filing of Export and Reexport License Applications, Classification Requests, Encryption Review Requests, and License Exception AGR Notifications'' (RIN0694-AD94) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7460. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending'' (Docket No. R-1305) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7461. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronic Payment of Fees for Outer Continental Shelf Activities'' (RIN1010-AD43) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7462. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Section 3167 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act Related to Education Partnerships with Minority Educational Institutions''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7463. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fiscal Year 2007 Status Report to Congress for the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act Pilot Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7464. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''A Preliminary Report on the Potential Impacts of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles on the U.S. Electric System''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7465. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Implementation Report on Energy Conservation Standards Activities, combining the fifth semi-annual Energy Policy Act of 2005 report and the second semi-annual Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 report; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7466. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Annual Energy Review 2007''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7467. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Rural Interstate Corridor Communications Study; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–7468. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''United States - Morocco Free Trade Agreement'' (RIN1505-AB76) received on August 8, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7469. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Fire Safety Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities, Automatic Sprinkler Systems'' (RIN0938-AN79) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7470. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tier I Issue IRC Section 118 Abuse Directive #4'' (LMSB-4-0608-034) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7471. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Notice - Section 475 Valuation Safe Harbor'' (Notice 2008-71) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7472. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Financing Commitments and Section 163(e)(5)'' ((Rev. Proc. 2008-51)(RP-133208-08)) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7473. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''S Corporation Guidance under AJCA 2004 and GOZA of 2005'' ((RIN1545-BE95)(TD9422)) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7474. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (''EPCRS'')'' (Rev. Proc. 2008-50) received on August 20, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7475. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transfer of Sponsorship of a Pension Plan'' (Rev. Rul. 2008-45) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7476. A communication from the Chief of Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2008-69) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7477. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting proposed legislation entitled ''The Foreign Agents Registration Technical Amendments Act of 2008''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7478. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: U.S. Munitions List Interpretation'' (22 CFR Part 121) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7479. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Germany), involving the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to support the replication of the Have Quick I/II and SATURN Electronic Counter-Counter Measure for integration into Radio Communications Equipment; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7480. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (France), involving the export of technical data, and defense services for the manufacture of the Have Quick II and SATURN Electronic Counter-Countermeasures; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–7481. A communication from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Service of Process'' (45 CFR Part 4) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7482. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Devices; Radiology Devices; Reclassification of Bone Sonometers'' (Docket No. FDA-2005-N-0346) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7483. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''General and Plastic Surgery Devices; Reclassification of the Tissue Adhesive for Topical Approximation of Skin Device'' (Docket No. FDA–2006–P–0140) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7484. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Investigational New Drugs Intended for Use in Clinical Trials'' (Docket No. FDA–2005–N–0170) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–7485. A communication from the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–7486. A communication from the Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's commercial activities inventory for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7487. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, an inventory of commercial activities that are currently being performed by the Department's Federal employees for calendar year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7488. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive and Director for Acquisition Management, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2007 inventory report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7489. A communication from the Executive Director, Project on National Security Reform, transmitting a report entitled ''Project on National Security Reform July 2008 Preliminary Findings''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7490. A communication from the White House Liaison, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy for the position of Director, received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7491. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' (73 FR Part 43632) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7492. A communication from the Director, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cutoff Dates for Recognition of Boundary Changes for the 2010 Census'' (RIN0607–AA47) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7493. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems; North American Industry Classification System Based Federal Wage System Wage Surveys'' (RIN3206–AL45) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7494. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Competitive Area'' (RIN3206–AL64) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–7495. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2006 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7496. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7497. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Documentation of Nonimmigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended: Fingerprinting'' (22 CFR Part 41) received on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7498. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary and Deputy Director, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 2009'' (RIN0651–AC21) received on August 18, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–7499. A communication submitted jointly by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Alternative Measures to Address Cracks in the Monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of August 1, 2008, the following reports of committees were submitted on August 22, 2008:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2700. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to double liability limits for single-hull tankers and tank barges for 2009, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–445).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments:

S. 2728. A bill to establish the Twenty-First Century Water Commission to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs (Rept. No. 110–446).

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

S. 3362. A bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–447).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 344, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings (Rept. No. 110–448).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 3061. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 3450. A bill to provide for the rescission of funds made available for fiscal year 2009 for Iraq reconstruction; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3451. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to extend the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, to increase the allocation of Federal agency grants for those programs, to add water, energy, transportation, and domestic security related research to the list of topics deserving special consideration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 3452. A bill to authorize the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort

Davis, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3453. A bill to authorize the adjustment of status for immediate family members of aliens who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 261

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 261, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 268

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 268, a bill to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs.

S. 686

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 686, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historical Trail.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 826

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 826, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Alice Paul, in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women.

S. 860

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 988

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 1003

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employees not covered by qualified retirement plans to save for retirement through automatic payroll deposit IRAs, to facilitate similar saving by the self-employed, and for other purposes.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to ensure the provision of high quality health care coverage for uninsured individuals through State health care coverage pilot projects that expand coverage and access and improve quality and efficiency in the health care system.

S. 1328

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1328, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1492

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1492, a bill to improve the quality of federal and state data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation.

S. 1556

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1556, supra.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make permanent the summer food service pilot project for rural areas of Pennsylvania and apply the program to rural areas of every State.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to understand and comprehensively address the oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use.

S. 2052

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2052, a bill to allow for certiorari review of certain cases denied relief or review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

S. 2505

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2505, a bill to allow employees of a commercial passenger airline carrier who receive payments in a bankruptcy proceeding to roll over such payments into an individual retirement plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2510

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 2619

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2619, a bill to protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks.

S. 2668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2668, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 2682

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2682, a bill to direct United States funding to the United Nations Population Fund for certain purposes.

S. 2686

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2686, a bill to ensure that all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users as well as children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, are able to travel safely and conveniently on streets and highways.

S. 2781

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2781, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the per resident payment floor for direct graduate medical education payments under the Medicare program.

S. 2875

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2875, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide grants to designated States and tribes to carry out programs to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to predation by gray wolves and other predator species or to compensate landowners for livestock loss due to predation.

S. 2883

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 2899

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2899, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on suicides among veterans.

S. 2913

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2913, a bill to provide a limitation on judicial remedies in copyright infringement cases involving orphan works.

S. 2932

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States.

S. 2990

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2990, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins.

S. 3140

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3140, a bill to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 3187

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3187, a bill to establish a comprehensive interagency response to reduce lung cancer mortality in a timely manner.

S. 3209

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3209, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to clarify the filing period applicable to charges of discrimination, and for other purposes.

S. 3237

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3237, a bill to assist volunteer fire companies in coping with the precipitous rise in fuel prices.

S. 3246

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to set the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction.

S. 3252

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3252, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act, to ban abusive credit practices, enhance consumer disclosures, protect underage consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 3263

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3263, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to promote an enhanced strategic partnership with Pakistan and its people, and for other purposes.

S. 3299

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3299, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the demonstration project on adjustable rate mortgages and the demonstration project on hybrid adjustable rate mortgages.

S. 3308

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3308, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3317

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3317, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Main Street in Waterville, New York, as the ''Corporal John P. Sigsbee Post Office''.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 3362

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3362, a bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the timeframe for recognition of certain designations in certifying rural health clinics under the Medicare program.

S. 3380

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3380, a bill to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 3384

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3384, a bill to amend section 11317 of title 40, United States Code, to require greater accountability for cost overruns on Federal IT investment projects.

S. 3401

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3401, a bill to provide for habeas corpus review for terror suspects held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 3403

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3403, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require determination of the maximum feasible fuel economy level achievable for cars and light trucks for a year based on a projected fuel gasoline price that is not less than the applicable high gasoline price projection issued by the Energy Information Administration.

S. 3414

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3414, a bill to recapture family-sponsored and employment-based immigrant visas lost to bureaucratic delays and to prevent losses of family-sponsored and employment-based immigrant visas in the future, and for other purposes.

S. 3429

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3429, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for an increased mileage rate for charitable deductions.

S. 3437

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3437, a bill to limit the use of certain interrogation techniques, to require notification of the International Committee of the Red Cross of detainees, to prohibit interrogation by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 86

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 86, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States, through the International Whaling Commission, should use all appropriate measures to end commercial whaling in all of its forms and seek to strengthen measures to conserve whale species.

S. CON. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 87, a concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Latvia on the 90th anniversary of its declaration of independence.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

S. RES. 619

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 619, a resolution expressing support for a constructive dialogue on human rights issues between the United States and Bahrain.

S. RES. 640

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 640, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that there should be an increased Federal commitment to public health and the prevention of diseases and injuries for all people in the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 4979

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4979 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 3450. A bill to provide for the rescission of funds made available for fiscal year 2009 for Iraq reconstruction; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, legislation I am introducing today will rescind $1.1 billion in fiscal year 2009 funding for Iraq's reconstruction.

As you know, on the first of this month, U.S. forces handed security control of the Anbar province to the Iraqi government. This was an area that was considered all but lost to al-Qaida just 2 years ago, but as a result of the surge and related policies, today the Iraqis are able to take over the lead role for security in the province. This not only is a shining example of the success of the surge, but also shows the great improvements that the Iraqi government has made since the country's historic elections in 2005.

In fact, I believe these gains are so significant that it's time for the Iraqis to foot the bill for their reconstruction.

From 2005 to 2007, the Iraqi government brought in an estimated $96 billion—94 percent of that coming from oil revenues—and a cumulative budget surplus of $29 billion. An August 5, 2008, report by the Government Accountability Office estimated that in 2008 the Iraqis will generate up to $86 billion, with a surplus of up to $50 billion. This means that, by the end of this year, the Iraqis will have realized a budget surplus of up to $79 billion.

I have long been calling for the Iraqi government to assume more responsibility for its own reconstruction costs. Just as they continue to take the lead in securing their country as the situation on the ground improves, I once again call on the Iraqis to take more responsibility for their country's reconstruction. The Iraqis have made great progress in developing their oil infrastructure, and they are now in a position to assume greater financial responsibility of their economic future.

There is no reason that we can't begin to return American tax dollars to the U.S. Treasury. That is why today I am introducing legislation that would rescind more than $1 billion in funding that has been appropriated for future Iraqi reconstruction.

My legislation will rescind approximately $1.1 billion in Iraqi reconstruction funding appropriated by Congress for fiscal year 2009. It is important to note that this legislation will not affect any of the funding for our soldiers who are putting themselves in harm's way every day. Nor will it affect ongoing projects, nor any money that has already been obligated.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Iraqis in the improvements they have made by allowing them to take control of their own reconstruction. For the people of Iraq, this is a matter of self-determination and self-reliance. For American taxpayers, it's a matter of fairness.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3450

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RESCISSION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2009 FUNDS FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.

(a) BRIDGE FUNDS FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND FOR IRAQ.—The amount appropriated by subchapter B of chapter 4 of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252) under the heading ''ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND'' and available for assistance for Iraq is hereby rescinded.

(b) DEFENSE BRIDGE FUNDS FOR IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND.—The amount appropriated by chapter 2 of title IX of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 under the heading ''IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND'' is hereby rescinded.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3451. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to extend the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, to increase the allocation of Federal agency grants for those programs, to add water, energy, transportation, and domestic security related research to the list of topics deserving special consideration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, we need to take strong steps to promote job creation, innovation and sustainable long term economic development and there is no better way to do this than by stimulating and supporting small business innovation, especially in areas of national priority. As part of this effort, today I am introducing the Strengthening Our Economy Through Small Business Innovation Act of 2008.

Job growth, innovation and economic development are driven by our small businesses. Small businesses also tend to be based in our cities and communities and so they are major contributors to our local economies. Half of our county's payroll jobs and most of our new job opportunities are provided by small businesses. Small businesses are proven innovators and drive commercialization of cutting edge technologies. They also are effective partners with universities to enhance product creation, develop university income and attract university graduates and faculty through increased innovative job opportunities.

Over the last 25 years, through the Small Business Innovation and Research program, SBIR, and, more recently, Small Business Technology Transfer program, STTR, up to 2.5 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively, of Federal R&D funds from 11 Federal agencies have been specifically allocated to our Nation's small businesses to fund innovation.

My bill does three things. First, it extends the SBIR and STTR programs for a further 14 years so that small businesses, as well as universities and non-profit research organizations that collaborate with small businesses, can continue to leverage Federal research and development funding.

Second, it significantly increases the allocation of funds and the awards from large Federal research and development budgets to small businesses through the SBIR and STTR programs. It would increase the SBIR allocation from its current 2.5 percent to 10 percent and the STTR allocation from 0.3 percent to 1.0 percent over a 3 year period. It would increase SBIR phase I awards from $100,000 to $300,000 and phase II awards from $750,000 to $2.2 million. Third, it identifies specific funding priorities for energy innovation; safe and secure water; domestic security; and transportation.

Not only are small businesses our major source of employment, they employ about one third of our country's scientists and engineers and generate more patents on a per capita basis than large businesses and universities. This is simply a good investment in sustained job creation and innovation.

Studies by both the independent Government Accountability Office and The National Research Council have established that these programs are very effective in addressing their stated purposes. The NRC's comprehensive study, which was completed last year, found that the SBIR program ''is sound in concept and effective in practice.'' It also found that the program was ''stimulating technological innovation''; ''linking universities to the public and private markets''; ''increasing private sector commercialization of innovations'' at an ''impressive'' rate; and ''providing widely distributed support for innovation activity.'' The study concluded that:

> [T]he program is proving effective in meeting Congressional objectives. It is increasing innovation, encouraging participation by small companies in R&D, providing support for small firms owned by minorities and women, and resolving research questions for mission agencies in a cost effective manner. Should the Congress wish to provide additional funds for the program in support of these objectives, those funds could be employed effectively by the nation's SBIR.

The NRC's study found that universities and other non-profit research institutions will benefit significantly from the increase in both the SBIR and the STTR programs. The STTR allocation increase will directly benefit universities and efforts to bring university-based research into the commercial marketplace, as a partnership with a non-profit research institution, such as a university, is a requirement of all STTR award recipients.

The NRC study also found that many of the small businesses that receive SBIR funding are rooted in the university infrastructure so there will be synergies as investigators and graduates from universities, will have opportunities to be part of commercial developments. More than ⅔ of SBIR companies report that at least one founder was previously an academic. About one-third of SBIR company founders were most recently employed as academics before founding the company. Over a third of SBIR projects cite direct university involvement with: 27 percent of projects having university faculty as contractors on the project; 17 percent using universities themselves as subcontractors; and 15 percent employing graduate students.

In its report accompanying reauthorization legislation, the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee recently concluded that:

> increases in the SBIR allocation will invest money in research, contracting, internships, and other collaborative activities done with universities, with the contracting and patenting activities with SBIR companies being a sizable source of revenue for universities as well. The university-industry partnerships that SBIR creates are crucial in that they provide an applied research and commercialization focus that otherwise likely would not be present in university research. More specifically, the partnerships are important in exposing faculty and the next generation of scientists and engineers to commercial research and development. SBIR businesses provide graduate and undergraduate students with hands-on experience and job opportunities that universities would be unable to provide alone.

Our country faces some major challenges in which targeted research and development will be critical. Congress, with non-partisan expert guidance, has a role to play in guiding our national research and development priorities and, in this case, stimulating small business innovation in specific areas of critical national need. The National Academies of Science and other independent government research organizations provide us with carefully researched and considered recommendations on how we can address these priorities, so my bill draws on their recommendations to develop innovative energy technologies; enhance water quality and security; strengthen domestic security; and address transportation priorities. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a business meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224–7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224–6836.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an energy summit has been scheduled under the auspices of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The summit will be held on Friday, September 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

The purpose of the summit is to consider how to achieve a more secure, reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy future for the American people.

All Senators are invited to attend and present their views and recommendations. A limited number of experts will also be invited to participate and make oral statements. In addition, anyone wishing to submit written statements for the record may send them to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to rosemarie_calabro@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Deborah Estes at (202) 224–5360, Tara Billingsley at (202) 224–4756, or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224–5039.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. President, I would like to announce for the Information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the current state of vehicles powered by the electric grid and the prospects for wider deployment in the near future.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Mike Carr at (202) 224–8164 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224–0883.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Suzanne McGuire, a fellow in the office of Senator PRYOR, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the second session of the 110th Congress.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following named staff members of the Committee on Armed Services be granted privileges of the floor at all times during the Senate's consideration of and votes relating to S. 3001, the national defense authorization bill:

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

HOLDS PERMANENT FLOOR PRIVILEGES

Borawski, June M.; Brewer, Leah C.; Bryan, Joseph M.; Caniano, William M.; Clark, Jonathan D.; Cohen, Ilona R.; Collins, David G.; Cowart, Christine E.; Creedon, Madelyn R.; Cronin, Kevin A.

DeBobes*, Richard D.; Dickinson, Marie Fabrizio; Eisen, Gabriella; Fieldhouse, Richard W.; Forbes, Diana Tabler; Greene, Creighton; Howard, Gary J.; Hutton, Paul C.; Jacobson, Mark R.; Kiley, Gregory T.

Kingston, Jessica L.; Kostiw*; Michael V.; Kuiken, Michael J.; Kyle, Mary J.; Lang, Christine G.; Leeling, Gerald J.; Levine*, Peter K.; McConnell, Thomas K.; McCord, Michael J.; Monahan, William G.P.; Morriss*, David M.

Niemeyer, Lucian L.; Noblet, Michael J.; Pasha, Ali Z.; Paul, Christopher J.; Pearson, Cindy; Quirk V, John H.; Rusten, Lynn F.; Sebold, Brian F.; Seraphin, Arun A.; Smith, Travis E.; Soofer, Robert M.; Stackley, Sean G.; Sutey, William K.; Wagner, Mary Louise; Walsh, Richard F.; Wells, Breon N.; White, Dana W.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that U.S. Army MAJ Alison Martin, a military legislative fellow in Senator DODD's office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the debate on S. 3001.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert Bruce, a Marine Corps fellow, be granted the privileges of the floor during consideration of S. 3001.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriation provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
Canada	Dollar		876.00						876.00
United States	Dollar				1,993.25				1,993.25
Gabrielle Batkin:									
Canada	Dollar		876.00						876.00
United States	Dollar				1,993.25				1,993.25
Senator Patrick J. Leahy:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Ed Pagano:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Kevin McDonald:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Katherine A. Eltrich:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Dr. John Eisold:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Kay Webber:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Michele Wymer:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Howard Sutton:									
Mexico	Peso		1,050.00						1,050.00
United States	Dollar				2,180.99				2,180.99
Ellen Stein Beares:									
Spain	Euro		1,608.00						1,608.00
United Kingdom	Pound		1,170.00						1,170.00
France	Euro		1,207.00						1,207.00
United States	Dollar				8,534.00				8,534.00
Total			18,459.00		14,701.49				33,160.49

SENATOR ROBERT BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 29, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Patrick J. Leahy:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,194.64						1,194.64
Kevin McDonald:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,254.47						1,254.47
United States	Dollar				2,919.71				2,919.71
Total			2,449.11		2,919.71				5,368.82

SENATOR ROBERT BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 29, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
William G. P. Monahan:									
Pakistan	Dollar		126.00						126.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		75.00						75.00
Israel	Dollar		180.00						180.00
United States	Dollar				9,038.30				9,038.30
Senator E. Benjamin Nelson:									
Germany	Euro		391.00						391.00
Pakistan	Rupee		96.00						96.00
Italy	Euro		273.00						273.00
Andrew Vanlandingham:									
Germany	Euro		321.00						321.00
Pakistan	Rupee		46.00						46.00
Italy	Euro		243.00						243.00
Senator Carl Levin:									
Pakistan	Rupee		126.00						126.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		75.00						75.00
Israel	Shekel		180.00						180.00
United States	Dollar				9,056.30				9,056.30
Richard D. DeBobes:									
Pakistan	Rupee		126.00						126.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		75.00						75.00
Israel	Shekel		180.00						180.00
United States	Dollar				9,038.30				9,038.30
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
United States	Dollar				10,988.00				10,988.00
Japan	Dollar		135.00						135.00
Singapore	Dollar		333.00						333.00
Vance Serchuk:									
United States	Dollar				10,988.00				10,988.00
Japan	Dollar			135.00					135.00
Singapore	Dollar		333.00						333.00
Total			3,449.00		49,108.90				52,557.90

SENATOR CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, July 25, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Shelby:									
Ireland	Euro		609.00				150.00		759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		272.00				100.00		372.00
Turkey	Lira		228.00				100.00		328.00
William Duhnke:									
Ireland	Euro		609.00				150.00		759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		272.00				100.00		372.00
Turkey	Lira		228.00				100.00		328.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Neal Orringer:									
Bolivia	Boliviano		108.00						108.00
Argentina	Peso		312.00						312.00
United States	Dollar				2,733.00				2,733.00
Total			2,638.00		2,733.00		700.00		6,071.00

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER J. DODD,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
July 25, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Floyd DesChamps:									
United States	Dollar				8,684.56				8,684.56
Thailand	Baht		1,626.00						1,626.00
Todd Bertoson:									
United States	Dollar				6,135.30				6,135.30
Chile	Peso		1,636.00						1,636.00
Total			3,262.00		14,819.86				18,081.86

SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUYE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
Aug. 1, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jessica Maher:									
Greenland	Krone		180.00						180.00
Ashley Horning:									
Greenland	Krone		140.00						140.00
Senator Bill Nelson:									
Greenland	Krone		257.00						257.00
Senator Johnny Isakson:									
Greenland	Krone		256.00						256.00
Senator Bernard Sanders:									
Greenland	Krone		257.00						257.00
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Greenland	Krone		257.16						257.16
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
Greenland	Krone		140.44						140.44
Senator Frank Lautenberg:									
Greenland	Krone		307.00						307.00
Senator Benjamin Cardin:									
Greenland	Krone		257.30						257.30
Senator Amy Klobuchar:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Senator Bob Corker:									
Greenland	Krone		120.44						120.44
Erik Olson:									
Greenland	Krone		188.50						188.50
Michael Goo:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Michael Quiello:									
Greenland	Krone		160.44						160.44
Marc Morano:									
Greenland	Krone		260.00						260.00
Arvin Ganeson:									
Greenland	Krone		160.44						160.44
Mark Wilson:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
John Eisold:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Alex Herrgott:									
United States	Dollar				7,676.29				7,676.29
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
James O'Keeffe:									
United States	Dollar				7,676.29				7,676.29
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
Paul Ordal:									
Greenland	Krone		140.44						140.44
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		779.00						779.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Bettina Poirier:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		905.00						905.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Peter Rafle:									
Greenland	Krone		225.24						225.24
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		603.00						603.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Senator Barbara Boxer:									
Greenland	Krone		257.30						257.30
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		524.00						524.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Total			18,409.06		44,120.66		8,752.00		71,281.72

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Aug. 13, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Eric Thu:									
United States	Dollar				10,842.56				10,842.56
Thailand	Baht		1,608.00						1,608.00
James O'Keeffe:									
United States	Dollar				8,229.97				8,229.97
Spain	Euro		1,458.00				150.00		1,608.00
United Kingdom	Pound		1,070.00				100.00		1,170.00
France	Euro		1,107.00				100.00		1,207.00
Total			5,243.00		19,072.53		350.00		24,665.53

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, July 25, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.:									
France	Euro		834.00						834.00
United States	Dollar				3,103.85				3,103.85
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.:									
Italy	Euro		861.00						861.00
United States	Dollar				7,184.75				7,184.75
Senator Robert Casey:									
Pakistan	Rupee		130.00						130.00
India	Rupee		86.00						86.00
United States	Dollar				9,362.40				9,362.40
Senator Christopher Dodd:									
Bolivia	Dollar		202.00						202.00
Argentina	Peso		312.00						312.00
Ecuador	Dollar		174.00						174.00
Senator Russ Feingold:									
Pakistan	Rupee		93.04						93.04
India	Rupee		718.00						718.00
United States	Dollar				7,960.28				7,960.28
Senator John Kerry:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		348.00						348.00
Israel	Shekal		176.00						176.00
Egypt	Pound		162.00						162.00
France	Euro		278.00						278.00
United States	Dollar				8,190.00				8,190.00
Jonah Blank:									
Thailand	Dollar		960.00						960.00
Malaysia	Dollar		1,338.00						1,338.00
United States	Dollar				9,854.33				9,854.33
Joshua Blumenfeld:									
Bolivia	Dollar		102.00						102.00
Argentina	Peso		252.00						252.00
Ecuador	Dollar		134.00						134.00
Jay Branegan:									
Vietnam	Dollar		1,460.00						1,460.00
Cambodia	Dollar		385.00						385.00
United States	Dollar				9,157.32				9,157.32
Shellie Bressler:									
Uganda	Shilling		1,764.62						1,764.62
United States	Dollar				10,342.94				10,342.94
Neil Brown:									
Chad	Franc		1,095.00						1,095.00
Ghana	Cedi		1,120.00						1,120.00
United States	Dollar				15,882.34				15,882.34
Brooke Daley:									
Peru	Nuevo Sol		1,850.00						1,850.00
Brazil	Real		864.00						864.00
United States	Dollar				6,076.30				6,076.30
Isaac Edwards:									
Korea	Won		200.00						200.00
Russia	Ruble		500.00						500.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	Dollar				9,330.00				9,330.00
Steve Feldstein:									
Nicaragua	Cordoba		174.00						174.00
United States	Dollar				2,406.30				2,406.30
Paul Foldi:									
Uganda	Shilling		2,072.00						2,072.00
United States	Dollar				10,342.94				10,342.94
Mark Helmke:									
Germany	Euro		2,561.48						2,561.48
United States	Dollar				6,979.66				6,979.66
Frank Jannuzi:									
Thailand	Baht		960.00						960.00
Taiwan	Dollar		1,795.00						1,795.00
United States	Dollar				9,830.83				9,830.83
Jofi Joseph:									
Pakistan	Rupee		130.00						130.00
India	Rupee		273.00						273.00
United States	Dollar				9,694.40				9,694.40
Danielle Langton:									
Russia	Ruble		877.00						877.00
United States	Dollar				7,761.78				7,761.78
Mark Lopes:									
Nicaragua	Cordoba		253.62						253.62
Honduras	Lempira		553.23						553.23
United States	Dollar				1,559.30				1,559.30
Frank Lowenstein:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		348.00						348.00
Israel	Shekal		176.00						176.00
Egypt	Pound		162.00						162.00
France	Euro		198.00						198.00
United States	Dollar				8,190.00				8,190.00
Sarah Margon:									
Pakistan	Rupee		156.00						156.00
India	Rupee		1,023.00						1,023.00
United States	Dollar				7,990.28				7,990.28
Dan McLaughlin:									
Kenya	Shilling		474.00						474.00
Tanzania	Shilling		308.00						308.00
Uganda	Shilling		272.00						272.00
Rwanda	Franc		272.00						272.00
Italy	Euro		273.00						273.00
United States	Dollar				5,979.67				5,979.67
Carl Meacham:									
Peru	Nuevo Sol		1,890.00						1,890.00
Brazil	Real		964.00						964.00
United States	Dollar				6,076.30				6,076.30
Kenneth Myers III:									
Russia	Ruble		760.00						760.00
United States	Dollar				7,761.78				7,761.78
Michael Phelan:									
Chad	Franc		1,095.00				777.00		1,872.00
Ghana	Cedi		1,120.00				856.00		1,976.00
United States	Dollar				15,882.34				15,882.34
Shannon Smith:									
Uganda	Shilling		1,624.00						1,624.00
United States	Dollar				10,343.00				10,343.00
Chris Socha:									
Djibouti	Franc		336.00						336.00
Ethiopia	Birr		996.00						996.00
Botswana	Pula		434.00						434.00
Senegal	Franc		796.00						796.00
United States	Dollar				12,122.96				12,122.96
Marik A. Frens-String:									
Vietnam	Dong		740.00						740.00
Cambodia	Riel		645.00				233.00		878.00
United States	Dollar				8,981.32				8,981.32
Puneet Talwar:									
Netherlands	Euro		446.00						446.00
United States	Dollar				7,102.04				7,102.04
David Wade:									
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		348.00						348.00
Israel	Shekal		176.00						176.00
Egypt	Pound		162.00						162.00
France	Euro		278.00						278.00
United States	Dollar				8,190.30				8,190.30
Debbie Yamada:									
United Kingdom	Pound		231.00						231.00
Kazakhstan	Tenge		748.00						748.00
Italy	Euro		262.00						262.00
Total			43,760.99		243,639.71		1,866.00		289,266.70

SENATOR JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, July 25, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Wendy Anderson:									
United States	Dollar				10,080.76				10,080.76
Israel	Shekel		147.58						147.58
Pakistan	Rupee		161.26						161.26
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		14.60						14.60
India	Rupee		178.97						178.97
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		81.00						81.00
Clyde Hicks:									
United States	Dollar				6,590.97				6,590.97

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Israel	Shekel		104.87						104.87
Pakistan	Rupee		225.74						225.74
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		192.00						192.00
Total			1,106.02		16,671.73				17,777.75

SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
July 8, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Andrew Kerr			2,079.00						2,079.00
	Dollar				3,567.40				3,567.40
Gordon Matlock			2,053.00						2,053.00
	Dollar				4,216.73				4,216.73
David Koger			2,008.00						2,008.00
	Dollar				4,730.28				4,730.28
Caroline Tess			1,099.00						1,099.00
	Dollar				5,980.00				5,980.00
Senator Bill Nelson			1,432.00						1,432.00
	Dollar				5,980.00				5,980.00
Eric Pelofsky			1,537.20						1,537.20
	Dollar				7,112.84				7,112.84
Michael Pevzner			1,644.00						1,644.00
	Dollar				8,453.28				8,453.28
Louis Tucker			1,635.00						1,635.00
	Dollar				5,441.30				5,441.30
Bryan Smith			1,529.57						1,529.57
	Dollar				5,478.44				5,478.44
Evan Gottesman			816.00						816.00
	Dollar				7,990.28				7,990.28
Michael Pevzner			1,924.99						1,924.99
	Dollar				7,807.09				7,807.09
Todd Rosenblum			1,924.99						1,924.99
	Dollar				7,807.09				7,807.09
John Maguire			1,924.99						1,924.99
	Dollar				7,807.09				7,807.09
Daniel Jones			1,924.99						1,924.99
	Dollar				7,807.09				7,807.09
Eric Pelofsky			1,387.00						1,387.00
	Dollar				8,543.28				8,543.28
Todd Rosenblum			1,644.00						1,644.00
	Dollar				8,543.28				8,543.28
Total			26,563.73		107,265.47				133,829.20

SENATOR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Aug. 1, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Kathleen Frangione:									
United States	Dollar				10,842.56				10,842.56
Thailand	Baht		1,608.00						1,608.00
Virginia Worrest:									
United States	Dollar				10,711.56				10,711.56
Thailand	Baht		1,876.00						1,876.00
Total			3,484.00		21,554.12				25,038.12

SENATOR JOHN F. KERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
July 16, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Kara Abramson:									
United States	Dollar				9,357.96				9,357.96
Kazakhstan	Tenge		2,161.00				1,658.58		3,819.58
Kyrgyzstan	Som		1,002.51		115.52		298.29		1,416.32
Total			3,163.51		9,473.48		1,956.87		14,593.86

REPRESENTATIVE SANDER LEVIN,
Congressional-Executive Commission on China, July 23, 2008.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 5057

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5057 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6456, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6456) to provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6456) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS DISCHARGED AND THE CALENDAR

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 647, S. Res. 649. I further ask that the Senate then proceed to Calendar No. 922, S. Res. 620, and Calendar No. 923, S. Res. 622, all en bloc.

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

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

NATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 647) designating September 9, 2008, as ''National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day'' was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 647

Whereas the term ''fetal alcohol spectrum disorders'' includes a broader range of conditions and therefore has replaced the term ''fetal alcohol syndrome'' as the umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are the leading cause of cognitive disability in western civilization, including the United States, and are 100 percent preventable;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime;

Whereas the incidence rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is estimated at 1 out of 500 live births and the incidence rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is estimated at 1 out of every 100 live births;

Whereas, although the economic costs of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are difficult to estimate, the cost of fetal alcohol syndrome alone in the United States was $5,400,000,000 in 2003 and it is estimated that each individual with fetal alcohol syndrome will cost taxpayers of the United States between $1,500,000 and $3,000,000 in his or her lifetime;

Whereas, in February 1999, a small group of parents of children who suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorders came together with the hope that in 1 magic moment the world could be made aware of the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy;

Whereas the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day was observed on September 9, 1999;

Whereas Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, the co-founder of the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, asked ''What if . . . a world full of FAS/E [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect] parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol . . . would the rest of the world listen?''; and

Whereas on the ninth day of the ninth month of each year since 1999, communities around the world have observed International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 9, 2008, as ''National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day''; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States—

(A) to observe National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day with appropriate ceremonies—

(i) to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(ii) to increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(iii) to minimize further effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

(iv) to ensure healthier communities across the United States; and

(B) to observe a moment of reflection on the ninth hour of September 9, 2008, to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol.

NATIONAL ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 649) designating September 18, 2008, as ''National Attention Deficit Disorder Awareness Day'' was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 649

Whereas Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (also known as ADHD or ADD), is a chronic neurobiological disorder that affects both children and adults, and can significantly interfere with the ability of an individual to regulate activity level, inhibit behavior, and attend to tasks in developmentally-appropriate ways;

Whereas ADHD can cause devastating consequences, including failure in school and the workplace, antisocial behavior, encounters with the criminal justice system, interpersonal difficulties, and substance abuse;

Whereas ADHD, the most extensively studied mental disorder in children, affects an estimated 3 to 7 percent (4,000,000) of young school-age children and an estimated 4 percent (8,000,000) of adults across racial, ethnic, and socio-economic lines;

Whereas scientific studies indicate that between 10 and 35 percent of children with ADHD have a first-degree relative with past or present ADHD, and that approximately ½ of parents who had ADHD have a child with the disorder, suggesting that ADHD runs in families and inheritance is an important risk factor;

Whereas despite the serious consequences that can manifest in the family and life experiences of an individual with ADHD, studies indicate that less than 85 percent of adults with the disorder are diagnosed and less than ½ of children and adults with the disorder receive treatment and, furthermore, poor and minority communities are particularly underserved by ADHD resources;

Whereas the Surgeon General, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Mental Health, among others, recognize the need for proper diagnosis, education, and treatment of ADHD;

Whereas the lack of public knowledge and understanding of the disorder play a significant role in the overwhelming numbers of undiagnosed and untreated cases of ADHD, and the dissemination of inaccurate, misleading information contributes as an obstacle for diagnosis and treatment;

Whereas lack of knowledge combined with issues of stigma have a particularly detrimental effect on the diagnosis and treatment of the disorder;

Whereas there is a need for education of health care professionals, employers, and educators about the disorder and a need for well-trained mental health professionals capable of conducting proper diagnosis and treatment activities; and

Whereas studies by the National Institute of Mental Health and others consistently reveal that through proper comprehensive diagnosis and treatment, the symptoms of ADHD can be substantially decreased and quality of life can be improved: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 18, 2008, as ''National Attention Deficit Disorder Awareness Day'';

(2) recognizes Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) as a major public health concern;

(3) encourages all Americans to find out more about ADHD, support ADHD mental health services, and seek the appropriate treatment and support, if necessary;

(4) expresses the sense of the Senate that the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) endeavor to raise awareness about ADHD; and

(B) continue to consider ways to improve access and quality of mental health services dedicated to improving the quality of life of children and adults with ADHD; and

(5) calls on Federal, State, and local administrators and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities.

NATIONAL POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 620) designating the week of September 14–20, 2008, as National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week, to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact polycystic kidney disease has on patients and future generations of their families, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 620

Whereas polycystic kidney disease (known as ''PICD''), one of the most prevalent life-threatening genetic diseases in the United States, is a severe, dominantly inherited disease that has a devastating impact, in both human and economic terms, on people of all ages, and affects equally people of all races, sexes, nationalities, geographic locations, and income levels;

Whereas this devastating disease comes in 2 hereditary forms, with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) affecting 1 in 500 worldwide, including 600,000 PKD patients in the United States, according to prevalence estimates in the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas families in which 1 or both parents have ADPKD have a 50 percent chance of passing the disease on to each of their children;

Whereas autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD), a rarer form of PKD, affects 1 in 20,000 live births and too often leads to death early in life;

Whereas parents who carry the gene for ARPKD pass on the disease to 25 percent of the children the parents conceive;

Whereas, in addition to patients directly affected by PKD, countless friends, loved ones, family members, colleagues, and caregivers must shoulder the physical, emotional, and financial burdens that polycystic kidney disease causes;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease, for which there is no treatment or cure, is the leading genetic cause of kidney failure in the United States and the fourth leading cause overall;

Whereas the vast majority of polycystic kidney disease patients reach kidney failure at an average age of 53, causing a severe strain on dialysis and kidney transplantation resources and on the delivery of health care in the United States, as the largest segment of the population of the United States, the ''baby boomers'', continues to age;

Whereas end stage renal disease is one of the fastest growing components of the Medicare budget, and polycystic kidney disease contributes to that cost by an estimated $2,000,000,000 annually for dialysis, kidney transplantation, and related therapies;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a systemic disease that causes damage to the kidney and the cardiovascular, endocrine, hepatic, and gastrointestinal organ systems and instills in patients a fear of an unknown future with a life-threatening genetic disease and apprehension over possible genetic discrimination;

Whereas the severity of the symptoms of polycystic kidney disease and the limited public awareness of the disease cause many patients to live in denial and forego regular visits to their physicians or to avoid following good health management which would help avoid more severe complications when kidney failure occurs;

Whereas people who have chronic, life-threatening diseases like polycystic kidney disease have a predisposition to depression and the resulting consequences of depression due to their anxiety over pain, suffering, and premature death;

Whereas the Senate and taxpayers of the United States desire to see treatments and. cures for disease and would like to see results from investments in research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and from such initiatives as the NIH Roadmap to the Future;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a verifiable example of how collaboration, technological innovation, scientific momentum, and public-private partnerships can generate therapeutic interventions that directly benefit polycystic kidney disease sufferers, save billions of Federal dollars under Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs for dialysis, kidney transplants, immunosuppressant drugs, and related therapies, and make available several thousand openings on the kidney transplant waiting list;

Whereas improvements in diagnostic technology and the expansion of scientific knowledge about polycystic kidney disease have led to the discovery of the 3 primary genes that cause polycystic kidney disease and the 3 primary protein products of the genes and to the understanding of cell structures and signaling pathways that cause cyst growth that has produced multiple polycystic kidney disease clinical drug trials;

Whereas there are thousands of volunteers nationwide who are dedicated to expanding essential research, fostering public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease, educating polycystic kidney disease patients and their families about the disease to improve their treatment and care, providing appropriate moral support, and encouraging people to become organ donors; and

Whereas these volunteers engage in an annual national awareness event held during the third week of September, and such a week would be an appropriate time to recognize National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 14–20, 2008, as ''National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of a national week to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into a cure for polycystic kidney disease; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to support National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week through appropriate ceremonies and activities, to promote public awareness of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 622) designating the week beginning September 7, 2008, as ''National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week'' was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 622

Designating the week beginning September 7, 2008, as ''National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week''.

Whereas there are 103 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities provide the quality education essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in the history of the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have allowed many underprivileged students to attain their full potential through higher education; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 7, 2008, as ''National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week''; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 110–21

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on September 8, 2008, by the President of the United States: Hague Convention on International Recovery of Child Support and Family Maintenance, Treaty Document No. 110–21. I further ask consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, adopted at The Hague on November 23, 2007, and signed by the United States on that same date, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, subject to the reservations

and declaration set forth in the report of the Secretary of State. The report of the Secretary of State, which includes an overview of the Convention, is enclosed for the information of the Senate.

The United States supported the development of the Convention as a means of promoting the establishment and enforcement of child support obligations in cases where the custodial parent and child are in one country and the non-custodial parent is in another. The Convention provides for a comprehensive system of cooperation between the child support authorities of contracting states, establishes procedures for the recognition and enforcement of foreign child support decisions, and requires effective measures for the enforcement of maintenance decisions. It is estimated that there are over 15 million child support cases in the United States and that an increasing number of these cases will involve parties who live in different nations. United States courts already enforce foreign child support orders, while many countries do not do so in the absence of a treaty obligation. Ratification of the Convention will thus mean that more U.S. children will receive the financial support they need from both their parents.

The Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services, which leads the Federal child support program, support the early ratification of this Convention. The American Bar Association and the National Child Support Enforcement Association have also expressed support for the Convention. Although some new implementing legislation will be required, the proposed Convention is largely consistent with current U.S. Federal and State law. Cases under the Convention will be handled through our existing comprehensive child support system, which involves both Federal and State law. The Departments of State and Health and Human Services have been working on preparation of the necessary amendments to Federal law to ensure compliance with the Convention, and that legislation will soon be ready for submission to the Congress for its consideration. The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws has worked closely with the Departments of State and Health and Human Services to develop the necessary amendments to uniform State child support legislation.

The Convention requires only two contracting states for entry into force. No state has yet ratified the Convention. Early U.S. ratification would therefore likely hasten the Convention's entry into force. This would be in the interests of U.S. families, as it would enable them to receive child support owed by debtors abroad more quickly and reliably. I therefore recommend that the Senate give prompt and favorable consideration to the Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the reservations and declaration described in the accompanying report of the Secretary of State, at the earliest possible date.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 8, 2008*.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, September 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3001, the Department of Defense authorization bill; that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons to meet; and that time during any recess, adjournment, or morning business count postcloture.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

ROBERT B. ELEY, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF NINE YEARS, VICE SAM EPSTEIN ANGEL, TERM EXPIRING.

NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES

PATRICK J. WOLF, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 15, 2012, VICE CRAIG T. RAMEY, TERM EXPIRED.

JOHN L. WINN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012, VICE GERALD LEE, TERM EXPIRING.

PAUL E. PETERSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2011, VICE HERBERT JOHN WALBERG, TERM EXPIRED.

DOUGLAS J. BESHAROV, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2011, VICE RICHARD JAMES MILGRAM, TERM EXPIRED.

ELIZABETH ANN BRYAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012. (REAPPOINTMENT)

LYNN S. FUCHS, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012, VICE JOSEPH K. TORGESEN, TERM EXPIRING.

ROBERT C. GRANGER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CAROLINE M. HOXBY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 28, 2012. (REAPPOINTMENT)

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MICHAEL YOUNG, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

DAVE HEINEMAN, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2011, VICE MEL CARNAHAN.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

JAMES X. DEMPSEY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2013. (NEW POSITION)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10502:

To be general

LT. GEN. CRAIG R. MCKINLEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. DAVID D. MCKIERNAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. WILLIAM G. WEBSTER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARGARET W. BOOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL DANIEL B. ALLYN
BRIGADIER GENERAL RODNEY O. ANDERSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES O. BARCLAY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR M. BARTELL
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN R. BARTLEY
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN M. BEDNAREK
BRIGADIER GENERAL DONALD M. CAMPBELL, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN F. CAMPBELL
BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES T. CLEVELAND
BRIGADIER GENERAL JEFFREY J. DORKO
BRIGADIER GENERAL KENNETH S. DOWD
BRIGADIER GENERAL GINA S. FARRISEE
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL FERRITER
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL T. FLYNN
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM B. GARRETT III
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES L. HODGE
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES L. HUGGINS, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN D. JOHNSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL NICKOLAS G. JUSTICE
BRIGADIER GENERAL SUSAN S. LAWRENCE
BRIGADIER GENERAL KEVIN A. LEONARD
BRIGADIER GENERAL GREGG F. MARTIN
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES M. MILANO
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN W. PEABODY
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID G. PERKINS
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES L. TERRY
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL S. TUCKER
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH L. VOTEL
BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANCIS J. WIERCINSKI
BRIGADIER GENERAL TERRY A. WOLFF