

Texas, but the hurricane was so big; it was over 600 miles wide. While it was not a category 4 or 5, it was a massive storm that really flooded parts of Mississippi, almost all of south Louisiana, and Texas.

I see my colleague, the chairman of the committee, coming to the floor. I will at this point yield for just a few moments, as I think they have come to some agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 3001

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, let me first thank our dear friend from Louisiana for allowing this interruption. It is a very important presentation.

In a moment, I am going to propound a unanimous consent request. Before doing that, there has been a lot of inquiry as to whether a managers' package is included in this. It is not. It has been unable to be cleared on the other side, so it is not included in this unanimous consent request, so that everybody understands it.

I now ask unanimous consent that at 6:30 p.m., morning business be closed; that after the bill is reported, all postcloture time be yielded back, the first and second-degree amendment be withdrawn, the bill then be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, it then be in order for the Senate to consider, en bloc, the following calendar items: Nos. 733, 734, and 735; that all after the enacting clause of each bill be stricken and the following divisions of S. 3001, as passed by the Senate, be inserted as follows: Division A, S. 3002; Division B, S. 3003; Division C, S. 3004; that these bills be read a third time, passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, en bloc; further, that the considering of these items appear separately in the RECORD.

Further—and this is what I am going to call the second half of this unanimous consent request—the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 758, H.R. 5658, the House companion, that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 3001, as amended and passed by the Senate, be inserted in lieu thereof; the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the title amendment which is at the desk be considered and agreed to; that upon passage of H.R. 5658, as amended, the Senate insist on its amendments, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees without further intervening action or debate, and that no points of order be considered waived by virtue of this agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and I shall

object, but before doing so, finally, I would like to say to my colleague and Senators on both sides of the aisle, under the leadership of yourself, Mr. Chairman, and to some extent my participation as the acting ranking member and certainly the members of our committee and staff—we have all worked very diligently to achieve a bill. The particular request my distinguished colleague has put to the Senate, to which I shall object, really refers to those items we were unable to reconcile procedurally in the course of some several days of deliberation beginning, perhaps, as early as last Thursday. We were here Friday. We were here Monday and Tuesday. We were unable to achieve the reconciliation. There were objections, I say absolutely candidly and frankly and factually, on both sides. So it is not as if one side has weighed down the other, in my judgment. It has been the inability to reconcile differences between the Senators. I have been here 30 years. I have seen it happen before. It will happen many years after I leave.

At this time, I point out that the cloud seems dark, but the silver lining is that a group of us, 61 in number, voted for cloture. That enabled us to be here at this moment, and there will be a bill at some point in time. There will be an armed services bill by the Senate. I hope it will be favorably acted upon by a majority.

At this time, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, let me first thank my dear friend from Virginia. He is accurate in his statements about differences not being able to be resolved in terms of a number of amendments which we had hoped to get to votes. My statement referred only to a managers' package on which we had cleared about 100 amendments. That is the one I made reference to before.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 3001

Mr. LEVIN. Given that objection to our going to conference, I now ask unanimous consent that at 6:30 p.m., morning business be closed; that after the bill is reported, all postcloture time be yielded back, the first- and second-degree amendment be withdrawn, the bill be then read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, it then be in order for the Senate to consider en bloc the following calendar items: Nos. 733, 734, and 735; that all after the enacting clause of each bill be stricken and the following divisions of S. 3001 as passed by the Senate be inserted as follows: Division A, S. 3002; Division B, S. 3003; and Division C, S. 3004; that these bills be read a third time, passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; further, that the consideration of these items appear separately in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I join in making that request. There is no objection on this side.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I will again thank my friend for all of his efforts on this bill. He has been, as always, a highly constructive force. We could not even be this far without his great support. I am indebted to him and the Senate is indebted to him, I hope, and the Nation again is indebted to Senator WARNER.

Again, I thank our good friend from Louisiana. We have interrupted her for a little longer than I promised.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, if I might just add, I thank my distinguished colleague and friend for the 30 years we have been together. I am certain this institution will carry on just as well without me—and perhaps even a little bit better. But I have enjoyed our working together these many years. I stop to think, you and I having been here the same number of years, we have served with 273 different Senators in that period of time. I have enjoyed it. I don't know of any relationship, either professional or even simply friendship, that I have enjoyed and profited from more than working with you, Senator. I wish you well as you carry on with this committee.

Madam President, I do want to thank the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee. I have here with me Michael Kostiw, William Caniano, David Morriss, David Collins, Sandy Luff of my personal staff, Marie Dickinson, Paul Hutton, Gergory Kiley, Lucian Niemeyer, Christopher Paul, Lynn Rusten, Robert Soofer, Diana Tabler, and Richard Walsh.

I know my staff would want me to say—and I say it—we have enjoyed working with the majority staff.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

STORM DISASTERS

Ms. LANDRIEU. I see several other colleagues are here on the floor to speak, maybe on this subject or another, so I will say I will reserve for myself another 5 minutes and be finished with my remarks.

I was speaking about the hurricane damage throughout really the southern part of the United States. I do not have the figures from Florida or from Mississippi or Alabama, but we are turning in our figures from Louisiana. Again, I remind my colleagues and the Nation, Fay hit the gulf coast; it hit Florida but devastated parts of the gulf coast and many interior parts of the southeastern part of the United States, with heavy rains and flooding on August 18. Then we had Hurricane Gustav on September 1, which slammed into Louisiana and did a tremendous amount of wind damage to parishes such as Point Coupee and Rapides and Avoyelles Parish—parishes about which you don't hear very much because they are not coastal parishes, but the wind damage