

government program; we can't do this, it costs money; we can't do this, we don't have time to do it.

None of those apply. It does not cost government money. We have time to do it. It is not a government program.

Mr. DORGAN, Madam President, let me make one additional point. Unfortunately, too much of politics these days is there is my team and your team. On this kind of legislation I would have thought this was about our team, all of us working together on a bill that Republicans and Democrats had cosponsored, on a bill that is actually going to reduce the Federal budget deficit by a half billion dollars and on a bill that, at a time when we are in deep recession, promotes tourists to come to this country, who would, on average, spend \$4,500 in this country to create new jobs.

We have a substantial number, hundreds of thousands—633,000 fewer visitors to the United States from overseas than we had in the year 2000. Think of that, 633,000 fewer people visited this country from overseas than did in the year 2000. Every other country is experiencing a very substantial increase: France, England, Italy, Yugoslavia—not Yugoslavia, again, I made the mistake—it is Turkey and Japan and India, so many other countries—Kosovo; they are all advertising, all pushing for international tourism, to come to their country because they know it creates jobs and, more importantly, they understand when you go there you leave those countries with a good impression.

If ever there were a time when we need people to come to this country and leave with an understanding of culture and character of this country and at the same time create jobs in this country by buying gas, renting hotel rooms, buying airplanes seats, going to the tourist attractions, and understanding about America, it is now.

My hope is, in the next day or so, we might be able to find a way to bring those who voted against cloture to understand we have said, you know what, if you want to offer amendments, offer amendments. There is no obstruction anywhere.

One of our colleagues came to the floor and said: I am voting against cloture because I was obstructed from offering my amendment, and that was a colleague who had an amendment on a list we said explicitly yes to. How does one reconcile statements that are not accurate? My hope is maybe we can find agreement in the next day or two.

Mr. REID, Madam President, the problem we have is one of time now. They have stalled and killed so much time on this bipartisan good piece of legislation. I think they should hear from their constituents. We should go ahead and invoke cloture. If there are germane amendments, we can do them. But I do not think we will go through the kabuki of having TARP amendments and all this.

We have tried in good faith to get this piece of legislation finished. If

they want to finish this legislation, they should march up here and invoke cloture, which needs to be done. They can still offer germane amendments.

They may not like this bill. They may want to offer other amendments as they relate to this legislation. Unless I can be convinced otherwise—and I certainly can be, if I can be proven to be wrong; I am happy to be as reasonable as I can be—I think this is such a revolting development in a body that has pledged to do good things for the country. We have done a lot of good things this year. We have done it with little help from the Republicans. We have gotten some but not much. So they are stalling to prevent President Obama from accomplishing anything, even on a bill to save this country money.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. If the majority leader would yield for a question, one of the things I found out with our hearing that you so kindly testified about tourism—and I am chairing that subcommittee—now is, one, this was bipartisan, as you pointed out. There were Republicans there. They pledged their support for this bill.

But the second thing is when we talk about tourism, it is not we are not only talking about the CEOs of airline companies. The jobs, as you know, we are talking about in Nevada, are jobs such as maids or the people who work at the flower shops or the people who work in the frontline in the restaurants or the people, the bellboys. Those are real jobs.

One out of eight people employed in this country is employed in the tourism industry. What I heard in Nevada was something like 400 conventions had been canceled out of Las Vegas. We are just starting to see some improvements in our State. We call Duluth the Las Vegas of Minnesota. But we are starting to see improvements with business travel picking up, with some hope for consumers.

This bill would bring in those key people to spend \$4,500 every time they come into this country, and that is the international travelers. So if the majority leader would comment on what this means to real people, the bill the Republicans have now stopped, as we are trying every day to get more jobs in this country.

Mr. REID, Madam President, my father-in-law, may he rest in peace, emigrated from Russia and wound up in Duluth, MN. At that time, it was a booming town, very tough town. I have never been to Duluth. I have been to Minneapolis a few times, but I never had the opportunity to see the Land of a Thousand Lakes—I think that is what they call it.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Ten thousand.

Mr. REID. Ten thousand. Well, in Nevada we do not have many lakes, we do not have five lakes. But I would love to come and spend some time in Minnesota. It is a wonderful tourism destination, in the winter as cold as it is there, and a lot of things to do there, and in the summer.

As Senator DORGAN mentioned, we should be promoting our country so people like my father-in-law from Duluth or Minneapolis or wherever could go visit and have a good time being a tourist.

It is the same in Nevada, New Hampshire, Illinois. Every State in the Union is heavily dependent on tourism, and the Republicans do not seem to much care.

This bill is probably finished for the year, and that means 40,000 less jobs. That means this country will go in the red more for not having the stimulation the economy would get from this bill.

I appreciate very much the subcommittee and the committee getting this bill on the floor. We thought we were going to have this love fest here, because this bill helps every State in the Union, helps every State in the Union create jobs, as the Senator from Minnesota said so rightly, jobs not manufacturing things, which is important; I wish we could do more to help that—not jobs that provide entertainment in the sense of the word of going to watch a ball game or something such as that. That is tourism. My son and the pals he runs around with traveled one summer all around the country watching ball games. That is tourism. And as the Senator from Minnesota mentioned, the reason tourism jobs in Nevada are so important, we have one union that has 60,000 members. Who are those members? They are maids, they are car valets, they are waiters, waitresses.

I think it is a shame that we have, because of the Republicans looking for an excuse to make President Obama look bad—President Obama wants this done. This is part of his program, tourism.

I appreciate the comments of my friend from Minnesota.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN.) The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### AMERICAN AUTO INDUSTRY OWNERSHIP

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I rise to discuss a "Sense of the Senate" resolution I have submitted with several colleagues to address the government's recent move to take significant ownership stakes in two icons of American business: Chrysler and General Motors. Joining me as cosponsors are Senators COLLINS, LANDRIEU, LIEBERMAN, KLOBUCHAR and MCCASKILL.

This resolution puts the Senate on record and makes absolutely clear: the Federal Government is a "temporary

shareholder" in GM and Chrysler, and it should divest its shareholder position as expeditiously as possible.

No one ever wanted the government to be in the car business, but the alternative was worse and the turmoil in the auto industry extends far beyond Detroit as most Americans know.

Dealerships across my State of Nebraska are feeling the impacts of decisions made by automakers following their bankruptcies. Chrysler has decided to terminate franchise agreements with 9 dealerships in Nebraska and GM intends to terminate franchise agreements with 21 dealerships in Nebraska.

These decisions are affecting dealerships and their employees in communities such as Arapahoe, Hastings, David City, Omaha, Auburn, Milford, Lincoln, Scottsbluff, and West Point have already been impacted by the auto bankruptcies. Auto parts manufacturing plants in communities like Kearney, Cozad, Grand Island, and Seward are also feeling the results of the downturn in the auto industry.

According to the Nebraska New Car and Truck Dealers Association, more than 13,600 Nebraskans work in jobs tied to the auto industry in my State and account for \$267 million in wages for Nebraska individuals and families.

However, now that an investment has been made, we owe it to the American taxpayers to be clear about what will happen with their money.

The resolution states that the Federal Government is a temporary stakeholder in the American automotive industry and should take all possible steps to protect America on taxpayer dollars and divest its ownership interests in such companies as expeditiously as possible.

The government should not be involved in day-to-day operations, and as soon as the auto companies have regained their financial footing the government must divest. Its involvement should not be open-ended.

Further, this resolution calls on the Government Accountability Office and the inspector general for the Troubled Assets Relief Program, or TARP, to continue providing oversight. In addition, the GAO and inspector general will report to Congress on automotive companies receiving financial assistance, so that the Federal Government may complete divestiture without delay.

This is not a partisan issue. Our deep economic crisis has already cost millions of Americans their jobs, and to add a collapse of the auto industry could add a devastating blow it would take years from which to recover.

We have had Presidents of both political parties recognize the need to address the current downfall of the auto industry and recognized the need to remove government involvement as quickly as possible.

On December 19, 2008, President Bush stated: "The actions I'm announcing today represent a step that we wish

were not necessary. But given the situation, it is the most effective and responsible way to address this challenge facing our nation. By giving the auto companies a chance to restructure, we will shield the American people from a harsh economic blow at a vulnerable time and we will give American workers an opportunity to show the world, once again, they can meet challenges with ingenuity and determination and bounce back from tough times and emerge stronger than before."

On March 30 this year, President Obama stated: "We cannot, and must not, and we will not let our auto industry simply vanish. This industry is like no other—it's an emblem of the American spirit; a once and future symbol of America's success. It's what helped build the middle class and sustained it throughout the 20th century. It's a source of deep pride for the generations of American workers whose hard work and imagination led to some of the finest cars the world has ever known. It's a pillar of our economy that has held up the dreams of millions of our people. . . . These companies—and this industry—must ultimately stand on their own, not as wards of the state."

So, to conclude, the government's move is aimed at providing stability for the automotive industry and for American workers across our great Nation in these uncertain economic times.

Our sense-of-the-Senate resolution affirms what the President has made clear: taxpayers should be protected and the government should get out of the auto business as soon as possible. Through this resolution, the Senate leaves no question about the government's future role in the U.S. auto industry.

#### MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY'S HOPE AWARD WINNER

Mr. REID. Madam President, I extend my warmest congratulations to John Ascuaga for this honor, as well as to his wife Rose and his entire family. I also commend the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for recognizing his contributions not only in the business world, but also for his generous philanthropic efforts.

John Ascuaga's Nugget for decades has been a first-class operation and a favorite destination of Nevadans and Americans from across the country. More than that, though, it has kept Sparks alive.

I have worked with John for many years. A first-generation American and a veteran, he has lived the American dream. And John would be the first to tell you he has done so with the support of his entire family, including his daughter, Michonne, whose leadership continues to keep the Nugget flourishing. Congratulations, John.

#### 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF RENO RODEO

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise to extend my warmest congratulations to Gordon Cowan, John Solari, and the Reno Rodeo on this historic milestone.

The Reno Rodeo is celebrated throughout Nevada for its first-class entertainment and dedication to philanthropy, which continues this week for the 90th consecutive year.

The Nation's third largest regular-season rodeo, Nevadans look forward every year to its cowboys' skill and showmanship and its preservation of the great traditions of the West.

Particularly this year, the non profit Reno Rodeo's contributions to Nevada's economy are significant—it draws 120,000 fans and generates millions for the hotels, casinos, restaurants, and stores in northern Nevada.

But the Reno Rodeo is not only important to our economy—it is a central part of our community as well. Incredibly, the rodeo is run by only two full-time staff members and countless volunteers. Since 1986, it has donated more than \$5 million to various causes, including charities, community partnership grants, and educational scholarships to schools including the University of Nevada, Reno. It has also given generously to literacy, high school rodeo and therapeutic equestrian programs.

Nevada is particularly proud of the Exceptional Kids Rodeo, which for more than a quarter-century has given children with special needs the opportunity to interact with the rodeo cowboys, animals and the exciting rodeo experience.

The "Wildest, Richest Rodeo in the West" is one of Nevada's oldest and proudest cultural institutions, and we wish it many more decades of success.

#### APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have the attached subcommittee memberships for the 111th Congress printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEES

Senator Inouye, as chairman of the Committee, and Senator Cochran, as ranking minority member of the Committee, are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Kohl, Harkin, Dorgan, Feinstein, Durbin, Johnson, Nelson, Reed, Pryor, Specter, Brownback, Bennett, Cochran, Bond, McConnell, Collins. (10-6)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Mikulski, Inouye, Leahy, Kohl, Dorgan, Feinstein, Reed, Lautenberg, Nelson, Pryor, Shelby, Gregg, McConnell, Hutchison, Alexander, Voinovich, Murkowski. (10-7)