

As far as I know, and I have seen no evidence to the contrary, her instructions were followed. They were separated. I have seen no evidence to the contrary. So I hope our debate and what I have been able to say and put in the record will put to rest any concerns colleagues may have about Mrs. Smith's honesty and her integrity.

Her honesty and her integrity are unassailable. Is she infallible? Never makes a mistake? Well, I do not know of any living human being who can say that. But does she recognize and correct it? Absolutely—as we all do. Well, again, honesty and integrity, unassailable in her performance as commissioner of labor in the State of New York.

Again, I will point out, this pilot project was a \$6,000 pilot project. She was in charge of running an agency with an \$11 billion, that is spelled with a B, \$11 billion budget; 4,000 employees across the State of New York. This was a \$6,000 pilot project. We have to kind of keep that in perspective as to how high it was on her viewing screen.

Well, quite frankly, I think this whole delay from last April would have been avoided if more of my colleagues on the other side had taken the time to sit down with Patricia Smith, talk with her, and hear her side of the story.

I also think it would have been avoided if you read all the letters of support from business groups in New York, from the attorneys, the district attorneys in New York representing all different political parties and ideologies. All these attorneys are saying she does a great job—if they had just looked at her record.

Well, I did. I looked at her record. I have spoken with her. I have read the transcripts. I have looked at the background of all this. I can say, with confidence, never did she have any intention of misleading the committee. Why? This was a perfectly legal, above-the-board project. Why would you want to mislead anybody about it? She had every intention of dedicating her life to be the best and most effective Solicitor of Labor she can possibly be.

Our Nation is very fortunate to have public servants of this caliber. I mean, you look at this. I have no doubt Patricia Smith, with her legal skills, managerial skills in the private sector, can be making a lot of money. I have no doubt. But she has chosen a different career path—to be a public servant, a public servant, dedicating her life to helping people for whom there is not a lot of government help. No one is sticking up for them, people at the bottom end of the ladder.

To me, this is one of the highest callings I think anyone can do in our society, is to be that kind of a public servant. So I think our Nation is very fortunate to have this kind of a person in Patricia Smith for this critical position. I look forward to her swift confirmation.

I would hope we would not have to drag out 30 hours, but it seems the Re-

publicans are intent on wasting time. There is nothing happening here. Anyone can see that. Anybody watching on C-SPAN can see nothing is happening here and we just waste time. We can have the vote now. We could have the vote in 20 minutes. Nothing would change. But we have the 30 hours. I guess we have to waste it. But I wanted to take this time, again, to set the record straight one more time on Patricia Smith, her integrity, her honesty, her exemplary background, and the fact that she is going to be an outstanding Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BEGICH).

NOMINATION OF M. PATRICIA SMITH TO BE SOLICITOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized as in morning business for 15 minutes.

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

NORTHERN UGANDA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, last week I came to the floor to talk about an issue that has kind of been drowned out by a lot of other things that are going on, other conflicts and disasters around the world. This is having to do with northern Uganda. It is something I have been on the floor talking about for several years now, and I have had occasion to be there several times.

For over two decades, a guy named Joseph Kony has led what they call the LRA, the Lord's Resistance Army, in violence all throughout northern Uganda, in that whole Great Lakes Region of east and central Africa. They have killed tens of thousands—little kids—displacing over 1 million, and terrorizing and kidnapping over 30,000 little kids, forcing them to fight. It is this child soldier thing a lot of people are aware of, but not nearly enough people are aware of it.

With all the problems there are in Africa—people are more concerned about Zimbabwe. They hear about that. They

have heard about Somalia, Sudan. Everyone knows about that. But nobody says anything about the Lord's Resistance Army and what they have been doing in that area of Africa for 25 years.

I have been there. I have been all the way up there to Gulu in northern Uganda. Let me share the problem that exists up there.

This madman, kind of a spiritual leader, by the name of Joseph Kony has taken advantage of all the unrest and the disasters by going into villages and kidnapping, taking young people and training them to be soldiers. We are talking about little kids, little boys. They are from 11 to 14 years old. Once they train them to be soldiers, they actually give them AK-47s. I do not have my chart now, but I have pictures of that. They train them to be soldiers, and then they have to go back to their villages and murder their parents and their siblings. If they do not do that, then they will dismember them. They will cut their noses off, cut their ears off, cut their lips off.

This has been going on for a long period of time. Quite frankly, I have gotten to know President Museveni in Uganda quite well, President Kagame in Rwanda, and President Kabila in Congo, and all of them agree that we need to do something about this monster Joseph Kony. It happens that two of the three Presidents I mentioned—President Museveni from Uganda and President Kagame from Rwanda—are Presidents who have really come to power in the bush. They are warriors. These are people who really are reluctant to admit they cannot go after one guy and get him. Well, they have finally all gotten together.

What we are trying to do—well, we have already introduced it; the author of the bill is Senator FEINGOLD of Wisconsin—is to go after these people, and this bill provides about \$35 million to help these kids who have been brutalized, as well as to give whatever assistance we have to give to these different countries in order to bring this guy to justice.

During one of the trips I made up to northern Uganda, to Gulu, I ran into three young men. They are college-age types—Bobby Bailey, Lauren Poole, and Jason Russell. They have started a documentary on Joseph Kony. They have gone around to universities, and we now have thousands—tens of thousands—of young people who are rallying around this thing, trying to get us to do something as a nation. These young people have become very effective.

This week, this Senate has an opportunity to act in unison to shine the light on this forgotten place and to begin to bring relief to these children.

The Great Lakes Region in Africa has suffered from years of devastating fighting between tribes, and as a result the area is home to massive numbers of displaced people who are vulnerable to this type of treatment. So those are