AMENDING THE IMMIGRATION
AND NATIONALITY ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1424, introduced earlier today by Senator KENNEDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1424) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of ‘‘S’’ visa non-immigrants.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in this time of tragedy, there are a few things Congress can do to provide immediate assistance. Passage of this legislation is one of them.

This bill restores the ‘‘S’’ visa, which Congress created as part of the 1994 Violent Crime Control Act. The visa allows foreign nationals with critical information about criminal cases, especially events of terrorism, to remain in the United States legally for the purpose of cooperating with law enforcement.

The provision authorizing the ‘‘S’’ visa expired yesterday, so without this legislation law enforcement will be unable to take advantage of it. The State and Justice Departments have requested that we reinstate the ‘‘S’’ visa. I urge the Senate to grant this request and to give law enforcement the support it needs in this area.

This is a limited program, but it serves an important purpose. The number of ‘‘S’’ visas granted in a year is limited to 200 for those providing information about crimes and an additional 50 specifically devoted to those who can provide information about terrorism.

Our law enforcement officials face a terrible responsibility in seeking out the perpetrators of these evil acts. I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation, and hope that it helps in this search.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, as follows:

S.J. Res. 20
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5961 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, resulting from the resignation of Howard H. Baker, Jr., of Washington, D.C., is filled by the appointment of Roger W. Sant of Washington, D.C.

The appointment is to be for a term of 8 years and shall take effect on the date of enactment of this joint resolution.

SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 142, S. 856.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 856) to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT No. 1569
Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand Senators KERRY and BOND have a substitute amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 856) to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide for a complete phase (as described in subsection (e)(5)) the first phase (as described in subsection (e)(6)(A)), the second phase (as described in subsection (e)(6)(B)), and the third phase (as described in subsection (e)(6)(C)).

SEC. 5. POLICY DIRECTIVE MODIFICATIONS.

Section 9(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(p)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(14) implement an outreach program to research institutions and small business concerns for the purpose of enhancing its STTR program, in conjunction with any such outreach done for purposes of the SBIR program."