

of our responsibilities to preserve that great document and to amend it only with great care and after great deliberation.

At this perplexing time in this year of our Lord 2001, we must be ever more on guard that we, as the elected Representatives of a great people, as we go forth, hold in our hands, as it were, the Constitution of the United States; that we resist any temptation because of the demands of the moment, the exigencies of the day, we resist the temptation to put that Constitution aside in order to avoid debate and expedite the business before the Senate. Let's not hesitate to ask questions. Let's look before we leap.

I yield the floor.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, is there an amendment pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is not.

AMENDMENT NO. 1573

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of myself and Senator BURNS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for himself and Mr. BURNS, proposes an amendment numbered 1573.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue War Bonds in support of recovery and response efforts relating to the September 11, 2001, hijackings and attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center)

At the end of title VI, insert the following:
SEC. . (a) From funds made available by this or any other Act, the Secretary of the Treasury may provide for the administrative costs for the issuance of bonds, to be known as "War Bonds", under section 3102 of title 31, United States Code, in response to the acts of terrorism perpetrated against the United States on September 11, 2001.

(b) If bonds described in subsection (a) are issued, such bonds shall be in such form and denominations, and shall be subject to such terms and conditions of issue, conversion, redemption, maturation, payment, and rate of interest as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to offer an amendment which would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to use such funds as he deems appropriate to establish and make available war bonds for purchase.

I am proud that along with a bill that Senator BURNS and I have offered

which is pending as this amendment, there are at least four other measures which have been offered that would create a new investment vehicle for Americans who are anxious to contribute to the war on terrorism. Clearly, the Congress and the American people are anxious to establish such a program.

Each of the bills which have been introduced are similar. In fact, two of them adapt the language Senator BURNS and I originally introduced almost verbatim. It is safe to assume that the goal of each of the sponsors is identical. That goal is to develop a way for patriotic Americans to contribute directly to the effort to rebuild the broken and retaliate against the enemy of international terrorism.

How many times have we heard over the last few days from our constituents: What can I do to help? The war bond is a way to help.

There has been a great deal of wonderful and soaring rhetoric on display since the terrible attacks of September 11, 2001. These words have helped our Nation steel its resolve and recognize the imperative of rooting out terrorism wherever it may lurk. As a result, the public is unified in its desire to take decisive action. The legislation that Senator Burns and I are offering today would allow the Secretary of Treasury to channel and sustain American compassion and unity.

Specifically, we propose allowing the Secretary to establish a new form of U.S. savings bond that would be designated war bonds. The war bonds would be in such form and denominations and be subject to such terms and conditions that the Secretary deemed most appropriate.

Some have pointed out that current economic conditions may argue against the need for war bonds to be used as a tool for funding the war on terrorism. I argue that view misses the most important point. There is no question that America is the most powerful nation economically and militarily on earth. However, what is less certain is the very nature of this effort, and a war bond campaign could be an invaluable tool for the government to explain the complex nature of the threats we face and rally all Americans to help provide necessary responses.

If the Government chooses to engage in this effort, I envision a war bond drive similar to those that were so successful during World War II. Influential Americans could be engaged to lead the education effort across the country, and all Americans would have the ability to participate in what is going to be a lengthy and complicated challenge. Success would be measured less by how much revenue is raised than by the Government's ability to maintain overwhelming approval of the actions it must undertake as we seek to eradicate the threat of terrorism.

Additionally some may argue that our use of the term "war bonds" is incendiary or inappropriate. Again, I would differ with this view. There is no question that the attacks of last Tuesday were acts of war. And, there is equally little doubt that America now finds itself in a state of war against the perpetrators of those vile and evil acts. Additionally, the phrase "war bonds" evokes the successful efforts which were undertaken during World War II. And if there is any doubt about how war bonds resonate with the American people, one need only look at the overwhelming response my office has received since introducing this legislation last week. In fact, I have even been contacted by one patriotic American who has reserved the domain name www.warbond.gov as well as a toll free number for a war bonds drive.

In closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment which would allow the Secretary to establish war bonds and continue a long and proud tradition of American citizen involvement in our Nation's most important causes.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today, I proudly join my dear friend and colleague, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, in offering an amendment to the Treasury, General Government Bill introducing the War Bond Amendment of 2001.

This legislation is in response to the many constituents in my state and indeed, Americans from all over this country, looking for a tangible opportunity to do something positive in reaction to the despicable acts of cowardice perpetrated upon this nation and its citizens by gutless and faceless cowards.

The act will create an opportunity for ordinary citizens to participate in this country's recovery and response to those acts and to support the President and our nation in the rebuilding efforts as well as bringing to justice those responsible for the horrific death and destruction of Tuesday, September 11th, 2001.

Throughout this nations history, bonds have been used as a vehicle for our citizens to come to the aid of this nation and now, as much as ever in our nations history, the combined support of our people is needed. By investing in these bonds, Americans are given a way to feel a part of the solution rather than feeling helpless in the face of these terrible events of last week.

Americans are not only demanding action, they are looking for an opportunity to be of service themselves, to demonstrate their commitment to this country and to do it in a meaningful, tangible way. This bill is one answer to that demand and that opportunity.

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

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

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

THE STARK REALITY OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACKS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, in the midst of the disaster we saw in New York, we had a number of images all of us will remember. One that will stick in my mind was as one of those great buildings was collapsing and the smoke and the dust and debris were barreling down the streets and people were running away, one of those people who was running was a fireman. As he got to a certain point, he slowed down, took off his hat and threw it as hard as he possibly could.

That courageous professional at that moment knew hundreds, perhaps thousands, were dying in that building and he could not save them, that many of his friends and brother firemen had been there at the scene closer than he, inside the building, and that they would not make it out.

It was a very poignant scene for me, and having been involved in some of these issues on the Judiciary Committee and as a Member of the Senate, I think it is important for each one of us to remember that in any terrorist attack, any really serious national disaster we have in this country, it will not be the Federal Government that is first on the scene. It will be our police officers and firemen, hundreds of whom we lost in New York City, doing what they were paid to do—respond to the scene, to give aid to those in distress, at the risk of their lives. Certainly the Biblical reference that “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends,” applies to those people.

We as a nation know we have problems with terrorism. We as a nation have heard people talk for days on television that we could be facing a chemical or biological attack or even a nuclear attack.

We need to ask ourselves, and we have been asking ourselves in this Senate for some time, and I have been actively involved in this, how are we training those first responders who are there to react to that event. Each event is different. This event is different from a biological attack, a chemical poison gas attack would be different from a biological attack, and a nuclear attack would be different. And who knows what else could be conjured up in the minds of these diabolical people.

It is important for this Nation to fulfill our obligation to those people we will be sending out to respond to these events, that they have the very best in equipment and the very best knowledge and training on how to handle each and every one of these events, each being different from the other.

We have begun to make progress on that. I congratulate Senator BYRD, Senator JUDD GREGG who chairs the relevant subcommittee, Senator RICHARD SHELBY of Alabama, a member of the Appropriations Committee, and others who have over the past few years taken steps to establish programs to train those first responders, those firemen, those policemen, those emergency medical technicians.

I am particularly interested in the Center for Domestic Preparedness at Anniston, AL, a center developed around 1997, 1998, where they are training 5,000 first responders from all over the country. That center is in the old Fort McClellan, the military base that was a chemical training school for the U.S. Army that had a cadre of people with expertise in chemical and biological issues, and it had live agent training forces for them. They had the barracks from the closed military base, places to stay, exercise rooms, and classrooms available. It was the perfect location to establish this center. It has done well.

Just a few weeks before this tragedy occurred, I was very pleased to see we had a major increase in funding for that center, taking us now to \$30 million for the year. Of the total of the perhaps \$20 billion we spend on terrorism, maybe more in this country, it is very small. But that will allow us, if it becomes final law this year—and I hope it will, particularly after this tragic event—to train, instead of 5,000 first responders a year, 10,000 first responders a year. They will be able to deploy them around this country. In fact, many have already been trained. We have received great references from the people who have completed the training. The chiefs of police and firemen who sent their members to the school have bragged about the training they received. Indeed, New York has sent a lot of people there; 146 of New York police and firefighters have been trained as first responders and 226 in the Washington, DC, metro area have been so trained. We are making progress. I believe it is the right thing to do.

At a time like this, we don't need to overreact. We don't need to do things that are not appropriate. But we need to coalesce all the information we have been gathering for a number of years that relates to the kind of attacks this Nation may face, take that information and make decisions about how to be better prepared. One of the most critical things we can say is every first responder, every firemen, every police-

men, every emergency medical technician in the country needs to have been given by his or her Federal Government the best information we can give them when they are asked to put their lives on the line and respond to an attack.

We have equipment and we need to make sure we can use the equipment to determine if it is a biological agent or chemical agent that may be distressing people in a certain area of town. We need to know that before we go in there. This is a matter about which I feel strongly.

It is appropriate, as so many have, to pay the highest tribute to those people, particularly in New York City, who are at great risk of their lives, and many of whom lost their lives, responded to the care and protection of American citizens. We give great tribute to them. We also must give them the tools, the information, the training and equipment so they can be even better at protecting our citizens' lives and even better at protecting their own lives.

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.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

Mr. DORGAN. 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. DORGAN. Mr. President, one of our colleagues, Senator MCCONNELL, today offered an amendment. I believe that amendment dealing with the issuance of war bonds is now pending. Another of our colleagues has a proposal in the form of an amendment dealing with what are called unity bonds. That is Senator JOHNSON from South Dakota. He asked that this be introduced on his behalf, and as manager I will do so.

I ask unanimous consent that we set aside the McConnell amendment.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1574

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk offered by Senator JOHNSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], for Mr. JOHNSON, proposes an amendment numbered 1574.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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