

HONORING THOSE LOST IN THE
JOINT TASK FORCE FOR FULL
ACCOUNTING HELICOPTER
CRASH

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, in early April, April 6 to be exact, the Senate recessed. The following day, April 7, a Saturday, a helicopter, in the fog, crashed into the side of a mountain in Vietnam. In that crash, seven American military personnel were killed as were nine Vietnamese. It is a grim yet a vivid reminder of the fact that every day American servicemen throughout the world are serving their country in harm's way. Even though the Nation is not at war, we sometimes forget these men and women put their lives on the line for us.

I want to share with the Senate what these men were doing. These men were searching for the remains of American missing personnel, MIAs from the Vietnam war. These young men volunteered for this job and put their lives on the line to find answers for the families of those who are missing.

In a statement issued April 7 by the National Alliance of Families expressing their sympathy to the families, the National Alliance of Families said:

We extend our sincere condolences to the families of these service members and hope they will be comforted by the fact that their loved ones will always be remembered for their commitment to finding our loved ones.

I just came back about 45 minutes ago from a memorial service at Fort Myer for those seven Americans and their nine Vietnamese counterparts. To sit there with some of the families of those missing was difficult. But, again, it is a reminder of what these men and women in uniform do, all across the world. I honor them today in the Senate by letting the American people know who they are. These are not anonymous people; these are real people with, now, real grieving widows, real grieving mothers and fathers.

The members on board were members of the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy. To be specific, there were three members of the U.S. Army, three members of the U.S. Air Force, and one Navy personnel. They were black, they were Hispanic, they were Caucasian—they were Americans. They were American military. They were: Army LTC Rennie Melville Cory, Jr., of Oklahoma City, OK; LTC George D. Martin III of Hopkins, SC; and SFC Tommy James Murphy of Georgia—hometown not available; they were Air Force MAJ Charles E. Lewis of Las Cruces, NM; MSG Steven L. Moser of San Diego, CA; and TSgt Robert M. Flynn of Huntsville, AL; they were Navy CPO Pedro Juan Gonzalez of Buckeye, AZ—real people, real Americans.

I used to teach high school, and oftentimes I would be amazed at the heroes some of our young people sought out—many in the athletic world, some

in the world of entertainment, some whom I might not have picked as heroes. But if you are looking for heroes to admire, here they are, seven of them, who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty to search for the remains of American men and women missing from the Vietnam war. What an honor to serve your country in that capacity.

At least five times that I can recall, I as a Member of either the Congress or the Senate had the opportunity to visit Vietnam—indeed, fly on maybe the same helicopter, but certainly similar helicopters with Vietnamese pilots. We flew all over Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, flying these missions, trying to find answers for POWs and MIAs. These wonderful people who make these sacrifices—long days, weeks away from their families, on the ground, sifting through dirt, trying to find remains, looking at wreckage, digging into the files and the archives—whatever it takes, they are out there doing it day in and day out with very few accolades.

I honor them today by simply saying thank you. Thank you for caring enough to search for your colleagues and comrades in arms who are missing. Thank you for serving your country. Thank you for making the ultimate sacrifice doing it. I also thank the families, those who survive, who will now endure this pain.

It is special with me because I have also endured it. When I was 3 years old my father, who served in World War II, died in the service of his country in a military aircraft accident. My mother, as a widow, raised me and my brother for all those years.

These are heroes. These were members of what is called the Joint Task Force—Full Accounting. I ask all of us, my colleagues in the Senate and the American people who are listening, tonight, when you put your head down, you might just remember these men in your prayers and say thank you from a grateful nation for your service.

Mr. President, 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. LOTT. 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 EDUCATION BILL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know there have been a number, more or less, of opening statements or statements with regard to education in America in the hope that we can move forward on a very important education reform bill that has been requested by President Bush and has been worked on in our Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The bill was re-

ported out overwhelmingly some months ago.

At that point, negotiations began between Republicans on the committee, Democrats on the committee, and the administration. I had the impression that good progress had been made. That is as it should be. Education is a very high priority in America with the President and with the Congress but, most importantly, with the American people.

I have stated in this Chamber many times before how importantly I view education. In my State of Mississippi, we are struggling mightily to improve the quality of our education to make sure that quality education is available to all of our students. We are truly working on the idea that no child should be left behind.

We had a \$100 million contribution from Jim and Sally Barksdale for fourth grade reading only in my State.

We are now at a point where we have 50 schools that have been approved for the Power-Up Program where students from the fifth grade to the eighth grade have access to privately donated computers with specifically trained teachers on how to teach these children to use them to learn to read. This program allows them to become computer literate and improve their reading skills.

Now we have unique programs in my State for fourth graders, and fifth through the eighth grade for reading alone. We are focusing on where there is a tremendous need. That story can be replicated all across America.

In addition to that, I am a son of a schoolteacher. She taught for 19 years before she got into bookkeeping and eventually into radio announcing. So I care a lot about education.

I worked for the University of Mississippi in placement and in the financial office for the alumni association and for the law school placement bureau. I have been involved in working with guidance counselors and teachers and promoting education generally. I care mightily about this.

As a Member of Congress for 29 years, I have watched us try to have a constructive role from the Federal level with the States and local school officials. We have put billions of dollars into trying to be helpful from the Federal level. The number is well over \$130-plus billion for title I since I think 1965.

As we poured more and more money from the Federal level into local education, the test scores have continued to slide downward. There is something missing. Money alone is not the answer. Money is part of the answer. We need to put more funds at the local, State, and Federal level into education, but we need more than that. We need fundamental reform. We need flexibility. We need accountability. We need to make sure the children are

learning to read and to do math. We need to know we are getting results for the efforts that are put into this important area of education.

We need to make sure teachers have the training they need to do the job, and that there are more and better programs to make sure we have teachers who have been taught how to teach the use of computers. We have computers in backs of classrooms and in hallways that aren't being used because they do not have teachers who are trained or qualified to teach their usage. We need more progress for our teachers. We need accountability for teachers.

Testing is something I have struggled with a little bit. We need to have a way to know how our students are doing. I worry about a national testing system. But the President has convinced me that there must be some sort of testing mechanism with a lot of local discretion, and it must occur regularly, not just sporadically.

There is much we can do in this area. I had been prepared to and have been under the impression that we were going to be able to move on the education reform package on Monday of this week. But there was an objection to the motion to proceed. My attitude was, fine, we will begin talking about the issue and emphasize its importance, and surely we can go to the bill on Tuesday. Tuesday came and went. Even though great progress was made on negotiations and reform and movement on the money issue, there was still no agreement to go forward on the bill. Now here we are on Wednesday. Each time I have called and talked to the Democratic leader, I have had the impression that he would like to move forward, but, he was just not quite ready yet.

I understand what is occurring. Leverage is being applied on the President to try to get more money, and to get a commitment to spend more and more money. It is obvious what is happening. But I don't think that is the responsible thing to do.

I think we should go forward with the bill. In the past I have been criticized because I wouldn't move to a bill and just said let's let the Senate work its will. Let's have amendments. Let's have votes. Some amendments win; some lose. In the end, you have a product, and then you vote and go forward.

I am being told until a total agreement is reached, we cannot go forward. I do not understand. Education is the highest priority in America with the President, the legislative branch, the States, the Governors, local school officials—everybody—and here we are. We stand, and we wait.

We are ready to go to the bill. Let's take it up. Let's have a free-flowing debate. Let's have amendments. Let's have votes. Let's do our job. Yet I am told we cannot even proceed to the bill.

Well, I am going to be patient. I am hoping that by this afternoon we can at

least proceed to this bill. It was reported unanimously out of committee. Let's go to the underlying bill. We can have some amendments offered. Then, if there is agreement between all the parties, the manager can offer an amendment, and we can amend that.

So I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let's begin. Let's do our job on education. We have had enough time. We should have done the bill in February. But I was told by the committee it was not ready. Then I was told we were making progress. And then it was reported out overwhelmingly. Everybody was happy. We are ready to go, and yet here we are and we cannot go forward.

So rather than just at this point mark time, I thought it was important that we go forward and try to take up another bill while we hope that some agreement can be reached and we can move forward on the education bill.

I talked to the chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction over the brownfields legislation. I had thought maybe there would be a need to go to this legislation as we were getting ready to go home for the Easter period. I indicated to the chairman I thought it would be necessary for him to be prepared to go forward. He is ready to do so.

So I think I am going to ask for an agreement I believe the Democratic leadership is agreeable to this that we would go forward with this legislation which affects all of our States, a lot of communities. This is some reform legislation that hopefully will allow more of these brownfields to actually be cleaned up and not just be a lawyers' enhancement act. This will be a plus for the institution and it will get us some results. I believe we can do this in a couple hours and we would be prepared to have a vote at about 2 o'clock or so.

I inquire of the chairman of the committee, is your counterpart ready?

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Yes.
Mr. LOTT. I see the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. We are ready.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the work they have already done and for being ready to go to this bill on short notice.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 350

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:15 today the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 19, S. 350, the brownfields legislation, and it be considered under the following limitation: There be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two managers, and no amendments be in order to the bill other than a managers' amendment.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back

of time, the managers' amendment be agreed to, the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be read a third time, and the bill then be temporarily set aside with a vote occurring on passage at 2 p.m. today, with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The Senator from West Virginia has an important statement to give regarding one of our valued employees in the Senate. The Senator from West Virginia, I understand, wants to speak for 10 or 15 minutes.

Mr. BYRD. Fifteen at the most.
Mr. REID. Maybe we could start this at 11:25.

Mr. LOTT. I modify my request so that we would begin then at 11:25, to allow Senator BYRD to go forward with his statement between now and then.

Mr. REID. I say to the majority leader, that would leave 2 hours and 35 minutes until 2 o'clock.

Mr. LOTT. Yes.
Mr. REID. There are no amendments in order anyway. We may have some people who wish to speak on it. Would that be OK with the leader?

Mr. LOTT. I am not sure I understand what the request is.

Mr. REID. Rather than ending the debate at approximately 1:25, we would do it at 2 o'clock and just vote at 2 o'clock.

Mr. LOTT. That would be fine.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request, as modified?

Without objection, it is so ordered.
Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished majority leader and the distinguished minority whip for their kindness and courtesy to me.

TRIBUTE TO JIM ENGLISH

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart. And I do not say that without justification. I measure my words in saying that I rise today with a heavy heart, for it will shortly be time for me to say goodbye, for now at least, to one of the most extraordinary men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing in my 83 years on God's footstool, this Earth.

The minority staff director of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Mr. Jim English, has decided to retire this year. Jim English has been my right arm, figuratively speaking, since 1989, when I assumed the chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate. We have been through so many battles together, that sometimes it seems as if Jim English has always