

least in part, because of inadequate attention.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, these 50 children who have died during the presentation by the majority leader are children, of course, who have parents, and brothers and sisters in most instances. The grief and heartache is multiplied each day with the death of children. I appreciate very much the majority leader reaching out to make sure this is a bipartisan piece of legislation. I think it sets a good tone that the two leaders are moving forward on an initiative that speaks of the goodness of America. That is what this is all about. We care about children dying, wherever it happens.

We have the unique situation in this Senate that we have one of the leaders, the Republican leader, who is a medical doctor. During his tenure in the Senate, he has traveled the world looking at medical problems that exist and there is no bigger problem than water.

Our former colleague who recently passed away, Paul Simon from Illinois, wrote a book, "Tapped Out." In that book, he mentioned some of the things I have said. The State of Nevada is different from the State of Tennessee. We have what we call rivers, but they are tiny, little. I do not know what they would be called in most States.

The Colorado River is a river that at times can be a mighty river, but the rest of the rivers we have in Nevada are tiny, little rivers. The Truckee River, which supplies the second largest city in Nevada, Reno, with all its water, is a little stream. You can walk across it in most places. The world-famous city of Las Vegas gets 4 inches of rain every year.

We need to do something about the lack of water around the country, and not only the lack of water but the quality of the water. A lot of places have water, but it is not water you can drink and stay healthy with.

I am pleased to join the majority leader in cosponsoring this important legislation. We are going to introduce it later today. Our staffs are working on the language.

With this legislation, we are seeking to do something meaningful for the hundreds of millions of people across the globe who lack safe and clean water. It is something so basic, yet so critical to human life. Improving the delivery and access of clean and safe water, better hygiene and medicine, that is what this bill seeks to achieve.

No one knows more in this body than the majority leader, from his travels in Africa and elsewhere, that over a billion people—and that is probably a figure that is too low—lack access to clean water. Each year, as has been indicated, millions of people die. We do

not know how many people, but at least 5 million people die from water-related diseases. More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war. Eighty percent of all sickness in the world is attributable to unsafe water and improper sanitation, and they go together in most instances.

These statistics are staggering and disturbing because so much of this disease and despair is preventable. That is what the legislation is all about. We need greater U.S. and international involvement and a more proactive strategy. In addition, we need to fully fund this initiative and the other water programs currently undertaken by our Government.

I am grateful the majority leader will shortly enter into a colloquy with me that directly addresses the strategy and funding problems. We are going to work together. This is bipartisan legislation. The majority leader and I are doing this not for purposes of showing we can do something together, which I think is an important message, but we are actually going to do something. We are going to do more than introduce this legislation. There is going to be more than authorizing legislation. We have a huge budget in the United States. I think we can find money to actually do this. It is important. And we do not have to take from other programs. I hope that is the case.

So I look forward to continuing to work with the majority leader, Senator LEAHY, and Senator MCCONNELL, who are the ranking member and chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and, of course, Senators LUGAR and BIDEN, who are the chair and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. There are others. But we are going to get working to make sure we do something positive to make sure the world is a safer place.

When people are healthy, they have less problems with raising their children properly. It creates all across the world an influence that is positive and resolves many differences. We know, as is pointed out in the book by Senator Simon, in the future, wars are going to be fought over water, not over territorial boundaries necessarily, unless it does involve water. There is a shortage of water.

If we can do some good work in the Middle East, for example, with water—and here, I have to compliment Israel. Israel, as we speak, does not have the best relations with some of its neighbors, but they have joint water projects that they are working on. There is not a lot of fanfare for that, but they all realize that water is important, as we do.

So again, I compliment and I applaud the majority leader for his initiative. I look forward with anticipation to doing something good for millions and

even billions of people around the world.

Mr. FRIST. I am pleased to enter into this colloquy with the distinguished minority leader and I appreciate his cosponsorship of the Currency for Peace Act of 2005.

Mr. REID. I am grateful to the majority leader for raising the critical issue of the lack of safe water in developing countries. It is one of the world's most pressing development challenges which impacts hundreds of millions of people across the globe.

Mr. FRIST. Unsafe water and water-related diseases have far reaching consequences. That is why U.S. Government, acting through the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, has been undertaking critically important programs in developing countries to provide clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene for many years. These life-saving programs should be continued and expanded, wherever possible.

Mr. REID. It is also critical for the United States and the international community to fully recognize the role that unsafe water plays in causing death, disease, poverty, environmental degradation, and instability. An aggressive and timely response is required, and the United States should be at the forefront of that effort. The U.S. Government and other donor nations must develop a more proactive response that commits greater resources and ensures that these resources are allocated where the greatest needs exist.

Mr. FRIST. And while we bolster and enhance our existing programs and strategies, Senator REID and I are pleased to put forward this new initiative that fully acknowledges the role that safe water plays in health and development. In the future, we must find the additional resources to fully fund the Safe Water Act of 2005, without decreasing our support for existing safe water and other foreign assistance programs.

Mr. REID. I fully agree that the initiatives set forth in this act should be fully funded, but not with funds taken from existing and ongoing foreign assistance programs. I look forward to working with Senator FRIST and the White House to obtain full funding for this program in the President's fiscal year 2007 budget and in subsequent years so the United States can implement pilot programs that can eventually be expanded to other countries in the future.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there