

This is a piece of legislation that has been around for a number of years. It was a bipartisan bill that was introduced by myself, Senators GREGG, KENNEDY, COLLINS, DEWINE, and WELLSTONE, and approved unanimously by voice vote. This is one of those bills with that kind of support out of the committee, on a bipartisan basis, and was done early enough that we thought we would have little difficulty in having this adopted as part of a unanimous consent calendar, rather than engaging in taking up the time of the Senate.

Unfortunately, I am told that any effort to try to pass this legislation will be objected to. As such, I regret to inform my colleagues that the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act reauthorization will just not get an endorsement by this Congress. That is a sad note indeed.

Mr. President, about 3 million children each year are abused in this country. Close to 900,000 children were found to be victims of child maltreatment or abuse.

The most tragic consequence of child maltreatment is death, obviously. The most recent data available for the year 2000 show that 1,200 children died in this country of abuse and neglect. Children younger than 6 years of age accounted for 85 percent of child fatalities, and children younger than 1 year of age accounted for 44 percent of child fatalities.

What more tragic news could there be than a child, an infant—1,200 in this country of ours—dying as a result of abuse and neglect? Here we are trying to do everything we can to help bring these numbers down.

Just imagine the face of a young child facing the horror of abuse and neglect that goes on far too often. Unfortunately, despite the unanimous vote out of the committee of jurisdiction, a bipartisan agreement to reauthorize these dollars, to allow us to go forward and deal with this situation, we are told: We are sorry, we cannot do this. We do not have either the time or the desire.

I am deeply saddened by it. As a first-time father with a 1-year-old child, I cannot imagine anyone abusing my daughter Grace. The idea that some child her age, some infant—1,200 of them around the country, according to the statistics in the year 2000—lost their lives, not to mention the several thousands more who are abused and survive but suffer the scars of that abuse, and that the Child Abuse Treatment and Prevention Act, which has actually done a great deal to assist families and communities in dealing with this issue is not going to have the imprimatur approval, despite the unanimous bipartisan agreement of the committee, to bring that matter up for consideration by this body.

The people who work in this area give tirelessly of their time and efforts to go out and save a few lives. I am not suggesting we save all 1,200, but what if we save 20? What if we save 10? Is it

worth this Senate's time to spend a few minutes to pass some legislation that might save one child's life this year? Would that be wrong?

I would not hesitate to say our allocation of time for an issue of that type, the life of one child we might save, is worthy of this Senate's attention and time.

It is with a high degree of sadness that I report to my colleagues we are going to have to wait for another day, I guess, maybe later in the next Congress, to do something. But when you pick up a newspaper over the next several months and read another child lost their life as a result of abuse and neglect, then you might look back on a moment like this and wonder: Maybe this Congress, despite the time we spent on other issues of questionable value, could have found a few minutes to deal with this issue of child neglect and abuse.

I regret to report to colleagues and others that this issue will have to wait for another day. Hopefully, the families of some children will not have to look back and wonder whether or not if we acted, we might have saved a life or saved a child from the lifetime scars that abuse and neglect can bring.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AKAKA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRORISM INSURANCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, as we are in the closing hours of this session—I am told there is some discussion about coming back after the election—we have not yet reached a final agreement on the terrorism insurance bill in the sense that there are conference reports that are being read. Obviously, Members from this Chamber and the other Chamber have departed for their respective districts and States. So despite the long hours last night, the early hours of this morning and today to achieve the final signing of a conference report, that particular effort has not been achieved yet.

It is appropriate and proper to suggest to those who are interested in the subject matter that we are on the brink of a very good and strong agreement dealing with terrorism insurance. Obviously, it is not finished until the conferees of the Senate and the other body sign the conference report, both bodies then vote on a conference report, and the President signs it. So there are several steps to go after people who have worked on a product and submit it to all of our colleagues, particularly those who are on the conference, for their approval.

I am heartened and confident that when Members look at the agreement, they will be satisfied we did a good job. I will quickly point out that like any agreement involving 535 different people, not including the President of the United States, where there are divided institutions, as they are in the Senate and the other body, getting an agreement that one side or the other would find entirely favorable is very unrealistic.

I went through a process with my good friend now from the State of Ohio, BOB NEY, on election reform. We have spent a lot of days, a lot of nights and weekends working out that bill.

There are those in this Chamber and the other Chamber who are not satisfied with everything we did—I understand why—but we never would have achieved a bill had it been a bill to the total satisfaction of one side or the other. I will say the same is going to be true about terrorism insurance.

I commend MIKE OXLEY, the chairman of the House Banking Committee, JIM SENSENBRENNER, and others who have worked on this legislation.

I commend the White House and the Treasury Department.

I thank my colleague, Senator SARBANES, who is the chairman of the Banking Committee and chairman of the conference on terrorism insurance, Senator SCHUMER, Senator REED of Rhode Island, Senator GRAMM, Senator SHELBY, and Senator ENZI, all of whom have been conferees on the Senate side. Certainly, their staffs have labored.

I thank the majority leader's office and the minority leader's office. A lot of people have worked on this bill.

If I were asked whether this is the bill I would write if I could write it alone, I would say no. I am sure Chairman Oxley would say the same thing. Were it his opportunity to write a bill perfectly, he would write something different than what we wrote. But we believe it is the best we could do under these circumstances.

The terrorism insurance bill is about policyholders. It is about jobs. It is about an economic condition of a country that is faltering. While this proposal is not going to solve all of those problems when there are a lot of people out of work, a lot of construction projects that have stopped, a lot of fine businesses and industries that cannot get insurance and thus cannot borrow money, then that contributes to an economic difficulty in the country which we are witnessing.

We have worked a long time to arrive at a product we think can be constructive, one that the President could sign, and one that Members could support. Obviously, I do not know all of the situations in the other body, but I can say that in this Senate we are going to make a real effort to send this conference report around and give Members a chance to read it. Frankly, we wanted to have that done before the close of business today, but when we were up until about 4 or 4:30 this morning, began again at 9:30 this morning,

and did not finish the final product until late this afternoon, it is unrealistic to assume everyone could have read this, gone over it carefully, and signed off on it.

I regret we were unable to get that done, but I believe before the final gavel comes down on this session, whenever that is, the Congress of the United States will have a chance to express its approval of this effort.

I wish I could stand here and say that this is done. It is not, because we need those signatures on this conference report. But I can say that those who have been involved in trying to craft it believe we have put together a good agreement.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DODD. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. REID. This is more of a comment than a question. The Senator from Connecticut has been on the floor this week for two very important reasons. One was to announce election reform, which is landmark legislation. No matter how one looks at it, it is landmark legislation. Also, the Senator from Connecticut has worked on this terrorism insurance bill for more than a year.

The reason I mention this is that there are no legislative winners or losers. It is something that was done on a bipartisan basis, each not getting everything they wanted but coming up with a product that is good for the American people.

The Senator is a veteran legislator. We all know that. But I really want to spread on the RECORD of this Senate how important it is to have someone such as the Senator from Connecticut who can work with people on the other side of the aisle to come up with a product for which no one can claim credit. This is not a Democrat or Republican victory with regard to election reform and terrorism insurance—when that is approved, and I am confident it will be. It will not be a victory for the Democrats or the Republicans. It will be a victory for the American people.

The way we were able to do so was with patience, perseverance, and the expertise of the Senator from Connecticut. On behalf of the entire Senate, the people of Nevada, who badly need both pieces of legislation, and the rest of the country, I applaud the work of the Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Nevada for those very gracious comments. I thank him for his efforts, as well as the very fine staff people, on both the terrorism insurance issue, which is an important question in his State, and the election reform bill.

I think we have finally come to realize—maybe it takes some of us longer than others—that any product that is going to have much merit requires that it be one reached on a bipartisan basis. The very fact that this institution is divided about as equally as it can be demands that.

I have served in this Chamber in the minority by a significant number of seats, and I have served in the majority by a significant number of seats. I have served in this Chamber, obviously, as we all do today, when we have been evenly divided. Under any set of circumstances short of an overwhelming number, measures need to be worked out with each other. We have to sit down and resolve differences across party lines.

The Senator from Nevada is a master at it. He was generous in his comments about the Senator from Connecticut. All of us admire the patience, the diligence, and the tenacity of Senator REID. There is no one who fights harder and spends more time every day to try to make things happen. There is no more frustrating job.

I found that out working on these last two issues, and that was frustrating enough. I am tired. I have been up several nights into the wee hours of the morning. I have talked about that 1-year-old daughter of mine. I have been accused of trying to avoid some of the paternal responsibilities that come with a new child by legislating too late at night. That is hardly the case. I cannot wait to get home to her.

I have admiration for Senator REID, who does it every day, but for those who do this on occasion, it is very hard. To do it every single day we are here takes a special talent and ability and commitment to this country. No one embraces those qualities better than the senior Senator from Nevada.

I thank the Senator for the kind words about the Senator from Connecticut. But they can be said with greater emphasis about the Senator from Nevada. I am sorry we cannot urge the adoption of a conference report on terrorism insurance. We will do that shortly sometime within the next few weeks. I am confident that before the Congress ends, enough Members, as they have already indicated in this Chamber, will be willing to sign a conference report, and hopefully the other Chamber will do the same.

Again, my compliments to the leadership of the other body and the leadership here for insisting we work to try to get this done. It is never an easy job. You have to try to work things out. I thank the President of the United States, as well, and his very kind staff. They worked very hard to keep us at this. When a number of us became discouraged on whether it was worthwhile spending anymore time, people at the White House, legislative staff kept saying: let's stick with it and see if we cannot come up with some answers. I admire that tenacity and that commitment.

I look forward to the final passage of this bill. It will happen, without any doubt. It is just a matter of time. I thank those involved in the process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. DAYTON. I join my colleague from Nevada in complimenting the Senator from Connecticut on the passage of the election reform law. I had the distinct pleasure and privilege to sit in the chair to preside when this matter was debated and discussed many months ago. As the Senator from Connecticut has observed, no one could have known then how long the ordeal remained before they could bring the conference report back this week. What the Senator from Connecticut, the Senator from Kentucky, and the Senator from Missouri accomplished on behalf of the Senate and, more importantly, on behalf of the citizens of America, is extraordinary. Given all that has not been brought to fruition in the final days, the accomplishment the Senator brought to the Senate is an extraordinary tribute to his endurance and his legislative skills.

He was very gracious yesterday to commend all of the people who worked so hard on this legislation—his colleagues and the staff across the aisle. He was too modest to compliment himself. I join with the Senator from Nevada in saying that Senator DODD has performed an extraordinary service to his Nation. We will—in Minnesota and Hawaii and Connecticut and across the country—conduct better elections, more reliable elections, elections where citizens can vote and know the votes will be counted and counted accurately.

His daughter Grace and his grandchildren and my children and grandchildren will be the beneficiaries of those hours of hard work. I thank the Senator. I congratulate him for that extraordinary accomplishment. It is one of the true highlights of our session.

Also, to follow up, I was presiding when the Senator referred to a couple of pieces of legislation that were not enacted in this session. We will be finishing our work and perhaps coming back in November after the election, with an agenda then that has not yet been determined and with prospects that are unknown. I express my great disappointment in some of the matters that were not accomplished.

When I was elected 2 years ago—so this is my first session of Congress—perhaps I came with loftier expectations and perhaps less seasoned assumptions of what could be accomplished, especially given the opportunities that presented themselves less than 2 years ago when we arrived and were looking at these months of time, the trillions of dollars of resources available to do the things that needed to be done.

One of the promises I made to the people of Minnesota during my campaign, which I took very seriously, was the passage of prescription drug legislation to provide for coverage through Medicare or some other means, but my own view was, through the Medicare Program for senior citizens throughout