

as the Senator from North Dakota has pointed out, by prohibiting procedurally the offering of any amendments to other legislation that will allow us to make campaign finance reform part of other legislation enacted on this Senate floor.

It is cynical. It is a deliberate, partisan tactic to keep an advantage in the financing of campaigns in this country. The cost is enormous. The cost is enormous, not simply in delaying other legislation, in stopping the work of this Congress, but in continuing and even fueling the erosion of confidence in the American people in the ability of this Senate to solve a real and legitimate problem.

Mr. DORGAN. The Senator from New Jersey is absolutely correct.

The Senator from Wisconsin, Senator FEINGOLD, who is on the floor, has, along with the Senator from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, brought to us a bipartisan proposal to say, "Let's fix this issue. Let's do something meaningful about campaign finance reform."

Every day you look in the paper and there is something new, some new revelation about what has happened in campaign finances, and it is not good. It has been Democrats a good number of times, and I understand that, and I am uncomfortable with that. Today it happens to be Republicans in the Washington Post—\$1 million-plus passed from big donors to other groups, then out to campaigns. So what you have is big money being moved into campaigns with an inability to trace any portion of the funds. Yesterday, the same thing, in a little race going on up in New York. Right now, \$800,000 put into that race in issue advertising which is unfortunately, under today's system, a legal form of cheating.

I think it would be in the best interest of the American people that we brought to the floor of the U.S. Senate an opportunity to vote yes or no, up or down, on campaign finance reform and stop the silly dance going on.

Mr. TORRICELLI. If the Senator would yield—and I am interested in hearing Senator FEINGOLD on this issue—I think it is important that the American people now understand this is not a choice between a current campaign finance system in the country being governed under existing statutes or an alternative offered by Mr. MCCAIN and Mr. FEINGOLD. The simple fact is there is no governing law of American political campaigns today.

The legal system, which for more than 20 years has governed the financing of our campaign system, has collapsed. Corporate money is flowing into this system. Independent organizations are beginning to dominate the system. Even the political parties risk becoming side voices in a larger chorus. The system in this country of governing our campaigns has ended. The only issue is whether this Senate is now going to allow the majority to govern by passing a new system which will install some new integrity into our

system of government. That is, indeed, the issue.

Mr. DORGAN. One of the reasons we are told they don't want to have a vote on this is because money is speech, they say. If that is the case, there are a lot of folks in this country who are voiceless in American politics.

There is too much money ricocheting off the walls in politics. We need to do something about it. Campaign finance reform of the type offered by Senator FEINGOLD and Senator MCCAIN is a step in the right direction. All we need to do is be allowed to have a vote on campaign finance reform.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on that point, let me agree strongly with the Senator from New Jersey and the Senator from North Dakota and highlight what will happen in a couple of minutes.

We will have a cloture vote that is purportedly on the issue of highway spending, but it is not about highway spending. It is not about transportation. It is not about investing in infrastructure. Those votes will come later. The vote we are going to have in a few minutes is about whether the first session of the 105th Congress is going to adjourn for the year without one single substantive vote on the issue of campaign finance reform and all the scandals that we have seen here in Washington. That is what is going on here. That is exactly what the American people have to be told in a straightforward manner.

The discussion that we just had here indicated what really happened a couple of weeks ago on the campaign finance reform bill. We thought we were going to have a serious debate on that issue. We thought there was going to be an opportunity not only to debate the overall bill but to offer Senators what Senators come here to do—the opportunity to offer amendments and modifications.

I was ready for that debate. These Senators were ready for that debate. The Senator from Arizona was ready for that debate. Even the junior Senator from Kentucky, the leading opponent of campaign finance reform, said he was ready for that debate.

Well, we were wrong, Mr. President. We never had such a debate. We never had such amendments voted on. We had a sham, a con game played on the American people. We had a process that was purposely rigged so that one way or the other the Republicans and Democrats would have to filibuster, or better yet, if possible, make both of them filibuster.

So my point is this: Let's have that debate. Let's have serious, substantive votes on this issue. Let's let Senators amend and modify and give their good ideas to the bill and then let the chips fall where they may.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### FIVE IMPRESSIVE WINNERS OF IMMIGRATION ESSAY CONTEST

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, a few months ago, the American Immigra-

tion Lawyers Association held an essay contest entitled "Celebrate America" for children in grades four through seven. The children were asked to write on the subject, "Why I Am Glad America Is a Nation of Immigrants." Hundreds of children entered the contest, and I congratulate all the participants.

The winner of the contest was Veronica Curran, a fifth grader in St. Mark's School in Shoreline, WA, who wrote about her family's extraordinary immigrant history—she and each of her brothers and sister were adopted from different countries. Eric Eves of Goulds, FL, Crystal Kohistani of Plymouth, MN, and Joseph Opromollo of Morris Plains, NJ, wrote other top essays. All of the essays reflect pride in America's immigrant heritage, and emphasize the benefits of immigration for the United States.

I congratulate each of these young writers, and I ask unanimous consent that the five winning essays from the "Celebrate America" essay contest be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the essays were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMING FROM AFAR  
(By Veronica Curran)

Most immigrants are not famous people. They are just regular, ordinary people, like my family and me.

In America, people have opportunities. They have a chance to use their talents to improve America. My family is a good example of why immigrants are good for this country.

My father's family immigrated from Ireland. They lived on a very poor farm which was too small to support everyone. They came to Montana and worked long hours in a dangerous copper mine. They saved their money for their children to get a good education. My father is now a teacher. America helped their family and they helped America.

My mother's family were printers who moved from Switzerland, then to America. They were in trouble for printing books against the government. They were looking for freedom to express themselves. They helped America by being good thinkers.

Many students have immigrant stories like these. But my family's story is different because my brothers, sister and I were adopted from different countries. We all have our own stories. My oldest brother immigrated from Colombia. My sister's ancestors immigrated from Portugal. My other brother and I immigrated from India.

If America was not a nation of immigrants, my family would not have been created. Because America welcomes people from all over the world, our family members have come together to become American citizens. I hope we will grow up to help America.

LIKE A TREE  
(by Eric Eves)

Like a tree, America is supported by many roots. Long ago Vikings used to tell tales of an enormous tree that supported the entire universe. The roots of this mighty tree grew down into the underworld. Its trunk held the earth and its evergreen boughs reached beyond the sky. When I think of the United States, I can't help but think of the United States as that tree. We are one of the most powerful nations on earth today, much thanks to our many roots that have come

from all corners of the world. Our evergreen boughs reach beyond the earth to space itself. It has taken many different people and many different kinds of people to make the United States what it is today.

Like a tree, America had to start from a seed—this seed being the natives, the Indians. It is believed that the Indians migrated from northeastern Asia, thousands of years ago, when there was a land bridge that linked North America to Asia. As we know, after the voyage of Christopher Columbus, Europeans started to immigrate to North America. This was the birth of our nation.

Like a tree, America started with a seed, was born, then it started to grow its roots—immigration. These immigrants have come and made the nation strong with their many strengths. Immigrants to the United States are people who have left their homeland for many reasons: war, social upheaval, economic calamities, political and religious persecution, but the greatest reason for people to come to America has been the desire to find greater opportunities. The United States has been known for a nation of immigrants. Since its birth it has taken in more than 55 million people, from every corner of the world. These people are welcomed and many have made enormous contributions to the culture and to the economy of the United States.

Like a tree, America has become a mighty nation with its roots grown from immigrants. Roots, anchor a tree in the ground, holding it firmly in place, so, that it doesn't blow over when storm winds blow. The roots of America, like a tree, has thousands of different people branching from it, spreading out in every direction. It is the roots of a tree that have more growth than its trunk or leaves, and, this we see here in America. Immigration has fed our country and made it what it is today—A Mighty Nation.

#### THE LONG JOURNEY TO AMERICA

(By Crystal Kohistani)

My story begins in 1983 when I was born. I was my parents' first child. Both my parents were born and raised in Afghanistan, where I also was born. The religion in Afghanistan is Islam. The language is Farsi.

I was one year old and my brother, who was also born in Afghanistan, was eleven months old, when a war broke out between the Russian and Afghan communists against Muslim Afghans. The Russian communists wanted to overpower the Afghan country. Many people died. Innocent people. They bombed homes and shot people who would not side with them. One of those people was my grandfather. He was a highly respected, wealthy man. The communists wanted him to side with them, but when he refused they shot him to death. They thought since he was a leader to people, that the people would do whatever he did. When my parents heard of this they became scared and decided to leave the country. We started our Journey in 1984. My father had to leave a day earlier than us. He got on a bus that would transfer workers from and to the University of Afghanistan. My father was good friends with the driver so he agreed to drive him one hour out of town to a village. The next day a jeep came for us at 12:00 A.M. We had to leave at dark so no one would see us leaving. The communists would not let anyone leave the country. If you were caught, they either arrested you or shot you. We had sold our belongings and took our clothing and some food with us. The jeep took us to the village and we met with my father. From there, four armed men with horses and donkeys met us. We had to pay these men for the donkeys and horses. We also had to pay ten thousand dollars for each one of us to be transferred.

These men were to take us to Pakistan. They took us from village to village. My mother held me on her horse and my father held my brother on foot. We had some family with us so there wasn't enough horses or donkeys for my father. Then early in the morning we reached another home. This home contained many people; a tiny room for two people were given to us. We had about ten people with us. We spent the night there. The next day we all got sick. Luckily my mother had medication with her. Then we set out again. We came to a bombed out house and spent another night there. We were all wet from the rain storm that had hit. We were so tired and hungry. Most of the places we stayed in were very dirty and smelly. They had rats, lizards and bugs. We had to sleep on the bare floor. We changed our clothes and got our rest. Later we headed towards a desert with little food and water. We saw many snakes. When we came out of the desert we were greeted by a wet and muddy path. Because of this we had to pass through the mountains. On the way a man tried to kidnap by brother from my mother, but when they saw the armed men they ran away. After the mountains we reached a dangerous valley, where many had died. After seven days we had reached the border of Pakistan. The officers at the border asked us some questions and then let us through. We thanked the men that helped us. The men returned to Afghanistan, perhaps to help another family. We got in touch with our relatives in Pakistan. They came, picked us up from the border and helped us look for a house. We lived in Pakistan for two years. After two years, my uncle, who lived in Minnesota sponsored us. We went from Pakistan, to Japan, to California, to Colorado, and finally to Minneapolis, Minnesota. I was three and half years old when I came here. I did not know any English. I am thirteen years old today. I am glad that I am here today, safe with my family. It was very hard for me to have two cultures. It confused me. But now I have learned to maintain two cultures. Some day I do hope I can go back to my country to visit. Although America will always be my country, for I was raised here. Right now there is war in Afghanistan still, but this time it's with the Taliban. They are taking the religion Islam too far. They make it seem like a horrible religion, but it's not. What the Taliban are requiring of the religion is not what the Holy Quran is requiring. I am glad I am here today to tell the story of my dangerous migration. So that my grand children and so on can tell the story of their ancestor's migration. And some day I hope that the world can live in peace.

#### WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Joseph Opromollo)

Red, yellow, olive,  
Black, brown, white.  
Splashes of color from God's own brush.  
Splashes of color upon  
Blue, green, brown,  
Grey, red, beige.  
Splashes of color which form an  
Endless rainbow,  
Which bleed together and blend into one.

The above symbolizes the diversity that is found in the United States of America. I am glad that the United States is a nation of immigrants. God has created all different nationalities of people to live on this world. For what reasons? For war? To fight each other because of our differences? No. I believe it was to live together in harmony and peace. This is why America is considered a melting pot.

In school I have learned many interesting facts about America's past. Although life

was often hard for the immigrants, their fight for freedom allowed all to live peacefully together. I know if my great-grandparents did not dream of the freedom they would find in the U.S. and had not immigrated, I would not be here today.

Where else in the world can you find friends of every race, color and nationality? Like the colors of nature, the colors found in America add variety to our lives. Like the colors of an artist's palette, they can exist side by side and can also blend to form new colors. I am proud to live in America.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the modified committee amendment to S. 1173, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act:

Senators Trent Lott, John H. Chafee, Paul Coverdell, Christopher Bond, Jesse Helms, Michael B. Enzi, John Ashcroft, Don Nickles, Craig Thomas, Mike DeWine, Richard Lugar, Pat Roberts, Ted Stevens, Wayne Allard, Dirk Kempthorne, and Larry Craig.

#### CALL OF THE ROLL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the quorum call has been waived.

#### VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the modified committee amendment to S. 1173, a bill to authorize funds for the construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are required. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Leg.]

#### YEAS—48

Abraham	Enzi	Kyl
Allard	Faircloth	Lott
Ashcroft	Frist	Lugar
Bennett	Gorton	McConnell
Bond	Gramm	Murkowski
Brownback	Grams	Nickles
Burns	Grassley	Roberts
Campbell	Gregg	Roth
Chafee	Hagel	Sessions
Coats	Hatch	Shelby
Cochran	Helms	Smith (NH)
Coverdell	Hutchinson	Smith (OR)
Craig	Hutchison	Stevens
D'Amato	Inhofe	Thomas
DeWine	Jeffords	Thurmond
Domenici	Kempthorne	Warner

#### NAYS—52

Akaka	Daschle	Johnson
Baucus	Dodd	Kennedy
Biden	Dorgan	Kerrey
Bingaman	Durbin	Kerry
Boxer	Feingold	Kohl
Breaux	Feinstein	Landrieu
Bryan	Ford	Lautenberg
Bumpers	Glenn	Leahy
Byrd	Graham	Levin
Cleland	Harkin	Lieberman
Collins	Hollings	Mack
Conrad	Inouye	McCain