

from the task of full implementation of agreements with China.

In conclusion, this is a good agreement. It serves American interests.

We have a lot of work ahead of us to help implement it and to follow up next year to make sure it is implemented. It deserves our support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the situation? Are we still in morning business or is this a matter of some dispute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business has expired, but the Senator is certainly free to proceed.

Mr. LEAHY. Once morning business has expired, do we go back on the bankruptcy bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the understanding, yes.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 2 p.m. under the same terms as previously ordered.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

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

THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week there was a terrible tragedy affecting the United Nations' World Food Program. This occurred when one of their planes crashed in Kosovo on an errand of mercy.

Since its inception in 1963, the World Food Program has been the United Nations' front line for fighting hunger throughout the world. It is the world's largest food aid organization.

Last year, the World Food Program assisted 75 million people in 80 countries around the world. This summer I observed their operations in Kosovo. In fact, at one point I was invited to fly on the same plane that crashed, to go and see what they were doing.

The World Food Program's mission is to eradicate hunger. I think that in the last seven years it has moved closer and closer to accomplishing this goal under the leadership of Executive Director Catherine Bertini. I was very proud to support Catherine when she was appointed to be executive director in 1992, during the administration of President Bush. She became the first woman to head the World Food Program. I have been a strong supporter for her ever since. She has done a great job as executive director, and I am glad that she continues to lead the World Food Program today.

For many, the World Food Program is known for its emergency response ef-

forts. It was one of the first organizations to move into the Balkan region when the conflict in Kosovo began.

As I mentioned earlier, during the August recess I visited the World Food Program and met with Catherine Bertini and talked to her about how their efforts were going. I believe they are doing a great job. Areas which had previously been empty fields have been transformed into makeshift cities where thousands of people seeking safety, food and shelter have found relief, thanks to the efforts of the World Food Program, Catholic Relief Services and other international organizations.

But emergency relief efforts such as this reflect only a portion of the World Food Program's responsibilities. The World Food Program's Food for Work programs feed millions of chronically hungry people worldwide. They contribute more grants to developing countries than any other United Nations agency. That is why so many people around the world felt the same degree of sadness that I and others in the Senate did when we learned of the plane crash on Friday in which a World Food Program plane, en route from Rome to Pristina, crashed into a mountain ridge just miles from their destination, killing all 24 people aboard the plane.

The passengers aboard this plane were an international group of aid workers. They were all headed to Kosovo to become part of the humanitarian mission there. In a war-torn area, these were 24 people going to bring solace, aid, and help to people who have seen so little of it over the years. They were people who were motivated by the greatest sense of charity and giving to their fellow human beings. They worked for U.N. agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and government agencies, all united by a sense of humanitarianism.

The loss of these individuals is going to be felt throughout the world. They were people who demonstrated over and over again that their fellow human beings were the most important things in their lives. Their deaths are a major loss to their families, as well as the organizations, including the World Food Program, for which they worked.

I send my sincere condolences to the families of those killed in this tragic crash, and I hope the world will understand they have lost 24 of their finest people.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY pertaining to the introduction of S. 1924 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know we are going on to the bankruptcy bill later today. We made progress on the bill last week. We cleared 25 amendments and improved the Bankruptcy Reform Act. We will continue to try to do that again today. The distinguished

Senator from New Jersey, Senator TORRICELLI, and I, working with the distinguished deputy Democratic leader, the Senator from Nevada, are prepared to enter into a unanimous consent agreement to limit the remaining Democratic amendments to only 28 amendments. Most of these would limit us to very short time agreements. I will speak on this more this afternoon. I want Senators to know that.

SATELLITE HOME VIEWERS' ACT AND PATENT REFORM ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I hope that the leadership will soon bring up for a vote the conference report regarding the Satellite Home Viewers Act and the Patent Reform Act. This legislation passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 411-8. According to an informal whip count, if it came to a vote in the Senate, it would pass by something like 98-2, and no worse than 95-5. So we ought to bring it up for a vote.

I don't know when I have gotten so much mail on any subject as I have on satellite home viewing. If you come from a rural area, you know how important this legislation is. If we do not pass the Satellite Home Viewers Act, on December 31 hundreds of thousands—maybe millions—of satellite viewers will find that a number of their channels will be simply cut off, especially in rural areas.

So when we have something that could easily be passed, we ought to do it. The patent legislation is supported—the so-called Hatch-Leahy bill—by most businesses I know. It would be a tremendous step forward in helping us to be competitive with the rest of the world in our patent legislation. It is also the second time in history that we have lowered the cost of patent registration to the taxpayers. So I urge that when we have a piece of legislation like this, which has passed the House of Representatives 411-8, which would pass overwhelmingly in the Senate, that the Republican leadership bring it up. Passing this bill will give some aid to many businesses throughout the country, including some of the finest technological businesses in the world.

And on the satellite front, this bill will allow the many individuals who rely on satellite dishes because they live in rural areas to be able to continue to get their television.

I think of States like my own State of Vermont, such as the State of Montana, the State of Texas, the State of Wyoming, and the State of Nevada, to name a few, where because of our rural nature, people are very dependent on satellite dishes. These satellite dish owners are justifiably concerned that on December 31, many of their channels are going to go dead. We can stop that by passing this legislation this week.

The Satellite Home Viewers Act conference report will soon be before us. It

passed overwhelmingly in the House, as it will here. I only know of two or three people who are opposed to it. That should not be enough to stop this bill.

In fact, I will join with the majority leader if he wants to bring the satellite bill up and instantly file cloture. I could get him the necessary signatures in 20 seconds. I can guarantee him that if it was necessary—and I hope that it would not be—to vote cloture, he would get far more than the 60 votes necessary for it; 90 to 95 Members of the Senate want to pass this. I hope the distinguished majority leader will allow it to come to a vote.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). In my capacity as the Senator from New Hampshire, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 4 p.m. under the same terms as previously ordered.

Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

In my capacity as the Senator from New Hampshire, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, is the Senate currently in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in morning business until the hour of 4 p.m.

REGULATING THE INTERSTATE TRANSPORT OF PRISONERS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I have introduced a piece of legislation in the Senate with my colleagues, Senator ASHCROFT from Missouri, and Senator LEAHY from Vermont. I have written this legislation with their assistance to deal with a problem that could cause and will cause and perhaps has caused significant jeopardy to Americans, American families and others.

Let me describe the circumstance. There is a young girl from North Dakota named Jeanna North. Jeanna was a wonderful 11-year-old young girl from Fargo, ND, who was brutally murdered by a man named Kyle Bell. Kyle Bell had previously been sentenced to 30 years in prison for assaulting three

other girls, had been convicted of violent acts, and then sentenced to life in prison for murdering this 11-year-old girl, Jeanna North, in Fargo, ND.

This convicted child murderer and violent offender, after being convicted and sentenced in the courts of North Dakota, was being transported to prison in another state. Apparently, folks who molest children and are convicted of crimes against children sometimes are put in prisons elsewhere because they run into problems in prison. Even in that culture they are not considered very good people, so child molesters are sent to other prisons for their own safety. This fellow named Kyle Bell, who killed young Jeanna North, was being transported to a prison in the State of Oregon.

This convicted child killer was being transported by a private company which was contracted by the State of North Dakota. Apparently—and I wasn't aware of this—there are transport companies that hire themselves to State and local governments to transport prisoners and criminals around the country. The private company's name was Transcor.

Kyle Bell was on a bus with more than a dozen other prisoners. The bus stopped in New Mexico at a gas station. One guard got out of the bus to fill the bus with some fuel, a second guard got out of the bus and went into the service station apparently to buy a hamburger or whatever one was going to buy at the food station, and two other guards fell asleep on the bus. The other guards slept on the bus.

Kyle Bell, a convicted child killer, in handcuffs and shackles—with one guard putting gas in the bus, the second guard buying food in the gas station, and the other two asleep in the front seat—Kyle Bell took a key he had in his shoe, took off his shackles and climbed out the ventilator, the roof of the bus. That bus then continued on its route. It wasn't for 9 hours, when the bus was already in Arizona, that the guards discovered this convicted child killer had escaped. Nine hours later they finally discovered he had escaped. Two hours after that, the guards finally notified law enforcement authorities.

Today this man is somewhere in this country. "America's Most Wanted" did a story last Saturday, the second they have done. Now over a month has gone by and this violent child killer is somewhere on the loose.

Why? Because a private company that is required to meet no standards at all hired itself out to haul violent criminals. If you hire yourself out to haul toxic waste interstate, I will tell you one thing: you are going to have to meet standards. If you are going to haul toxic waste, one State to another, you have to comply with reasonable standards for public safety. The same is true if you haul circus animals. The same is true if you are trucking cattle across the country. But if you truck convicted killers across the country—

no standards at all. If you want to be in that business, get your cousin, your brother-in-law, maybe a couple sons, buy a minivan and you are in business. Contract with a State or local government and you can haul violent criminals through Arizona, New Mexico, North Dakota, New Hampshire, anywhere. You do not have to meet any minimum standards. There is something wrong with that.

Senator ASHCROFT and I and Senator LEAHY are introducing a piece of legislation saying: If you are holding yourself out to do business hauling violent criminals interstate in this country, then you must meet some reasonable minimum standards.

When Kyle Bell walked away from that rest stop, he was wearing civilian clothes. Apparently, he walked into a parking lot, they think, of a shopping center. But he wouldn't have been noticed as a convicted child killer because he was wearing civilian clothes. One would ask the question: if you are hauling a convicted killer across this country, why would you not have that convicted killer in an orange suit that says "prisoner" on it? Instead, he was sitting on that bus with a key in his shoe and civilian clothing, so when he slipped out of that bus when the guards were asleep and walked into a shopping center parking lot, apparently no one noticed. So over a month has gone by and people in this country are at risk because this convicted killer is on the loose.

This young girl, Jeanna North, who died, you can imagine how her folks feel. I talked to her folks last week. The aunt and uncle of Kyle Bell, this murderer, are worried as well because he has threatened his own relatives.

The point is this: All of this has happened because a private company decides it is going to hire itself out to haul killers around the country, but there are no standards to be met. Senator ASHCROFT and I and Senator LEAHY believe the Justice Department ought to write standards—no tougher than they themselves will follow in the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the U.S. Marshals Service. Incidentally, they do transport killers all across the country. The U.S. Marshals Service has done it for years; so has the Federal Bureau of Prisons. We believe there ought to be some minimum standards that apply to these companies. The Justice Department ought to be able to establish those standards that are no greater than the standards that will be complied with by the Federal agencies themselves.

Is this, this escape of Kyle Bell, some sort of strange and unusual occurrence? No, regrettably it is not. Let me give a few examples.

Although there are no reporting requirements for private companies that haul convicted prisoners across this country, media reports indicate that in the last 3 years alone, 21 violent convicted prisoners have escaped during transport by private companies. No