

not just a nightmare, but the memory of a real event that will stay with me for the rest of my life. The scars are a part of me now, but they help me to remember that I've been blessed with a second chance at life."

Another survivor, Kelsey Bane, talks about how she felt on her first day back at Columbine. "On August 16, 1999, a new school year began. Only this year, I wasn't full of excitement. Instead, I was full of emotions I can't describe, because I was headed back to my school—Columbine High—for the first time since April 20. I was scared out of my mind, but I knew that whatever I did that day would determine the way I would live the rest of my life. So I went to school; I faced my fears and my nightmares from the past four months and got ready to begin a new school year."

Over the last year, "[it] has gotten harder, as I expected it would. Sometimes I can't remember what used to occupy my thoughts, because now my mind is overwhelmed by these horrific experiences. Our lives will never be the same—and I don't think I will ever fully accept that."

Nicole Nowlen, who was a relatively new student when the tragedy occurred, wrote "nine pieces of buckshot hit me; four exited and five are still inside. When school started at Chatfield High [in May], I wasn't physically ready, so I finished my sophomore year with a tutor and went back to Columbine in August."

"It's been like this roller-coaster ride ever since. October and November got too crazy. First they arrested a kid [from Columbine] for making threats to finish the job. Then there was the six-month anniversary, and Mrs. Hochhalter [the mother of Anne Marie Hochhalter who was badly injured] killed herself. In all my classes, the kids never stopped talking about the shooting. It was depressing, so I decided to be home schooled.

"I started seeing a counselor in November . . . Things are better now, so I'm not going anymore. I may go again, but for now I'm at a good point."

"What helped me the most was Gerda Weissman Klein. She's a 75-year-old Holocaust survivor who came to speak at our school in January. She's really the only one who understands what happened to all of us."

For the students of Columbine, every day is a struggle, every day takes another act of courage. There is nothing we can do in Congress to change that, but there is something we can do to protect other students from the nightmares, the anger, and the pain, as told by these students. Congress owes it to Columbine to try to end school shootings and reduce access to guns among young people. As of this one-year anniversary, Congress has failed to do so.

Columbine victim Valeen Schnurr wrote, "People on the outside don't realize how horrible it can actually be. We're the ones who can get everyone

motivated and involved in making changes." I only hope Valeen is right. Her story should motivate Congress to strengthen our laws and save the lives of America's children.

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

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

DEFENDING THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I was disappointed to hear one of our fine Senators, an able attorney, take the floor just a few minutes ago to commence a new round of attacks, it appears, on the new independent counsel, Mr. Ray.

We went through a period of time in which a person in this country was trying to enforce the law, trying to complete his duty as a sworn officer of the court, an individual asked to serve by the Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Starr, who conducted himself with restraint, propriety and fidelity to duty—a thankless task. He then gave up that office. Now it appears that Mr. Ray will be subjected to the same type of remarks. It is really disturbing and frustrating for me to hear that. I hope we don't hear that beginning. He simply made the obvious statement to the paper that the President can be indicted after he leaves office. He said that the investigation is not complete. He is charged with completing the investigation. He has an obligation to complete it, and he should complete it. I don't think anyone would suggest that he ought to stop before the evidence is gathered, that he ought not to fulfill his duty and responsibility that has been given to him. So I am really concerned about that.

During the impeachment trial—and I hate to even recall that, but I didn't start this discussion tonight—I remember that those on the other side of the aisle said even if a crime were committed, that would be something a prosecutor would deal with but it did not require us to impeach. Obviously, that is true. People could have believed that crime was committed and that an impeachment vote was not required. But that does not suggest a prosecution should not go forward. We have a principle in this country that is chiseled into the walls of the Supreme Court building: Equal Justice Under Law.

The Supreme Court made clear during the Nixon case, and at other times, that no American is above the law. They say, well, you would never prosecute another citizen in America for committing perjury in a civil case.

That is silly. Well, I suggest that is not accurate. People are prosecuted for perjury in civil cases. I served as a U.S. attorney for 12 years in Mobile, AL. I remember very distinctly a young police officer who accused the chief of police of corruption. He was his driver. He made allegations in a deposition, and lawsuits were filed against the chief of police in Mobile, AL, who was an African American. They were coming after him. He repeated that under oath, and it turned out to be totally bogus. He eventually admitted it was bogus. He came to me as a U.S. attorney, a Federal prosecutor—it was a Federal lawsuit—and I believed it ought to be prosecuted. We charged that young man for that stupid, perjurious, felonious act. He pleaded guilty to it, as well he should have.

I don't know why the President is above that. If he did a crime, he ought to answer for it. I remember when this matter was at one of its intense points, I shared a private conversation with a distinguished Senator on the other side of the aisle. I shared with him that maybe the President ought to just admit he did something wrong, say he did it to the world, say he didn't tell the truth, ask the Congress to not impeach him, ask the American people for forgiveness, and say when he serves his term and walks out of there, he is willing to plead guilty to any crime he committed and ask for the mercy of the court. Now that would have ended the whole thing. That would have taken a manly act on his part, which I didn't really see occur during that time.

So I don't know how it ought to be handled. But I don't believe a duly appointed special prosecutor needs to be subjected to abuse on the floor of the Senate for doing what he is instructed to do and charged with doing by the courts of America. And to say it is like Russia, I don't appreciate that one bit. What is like Russia is when leaders lie, cheat, steal, and maintain their office. That is what happens in a country such as Russia, not in a free democracy where all Americans are equal and have a right to know that every other public official is equal and subject to the law just as they are.

I am not suggesting I know what the facts are or that Mr. Ray does or does not have a good case. I have been a prosecutor, and I know what you have to do. A prosecutor has to gather the facts. Then if he has a case, he has to put it out before the whole world. If it is not there, he will be remembered for a bogus and unfair prosecution, if he ever got an indictment from a grand jury, which I doubt he would if he didn't have a good case. I am not afraid of the system. The President is subject to the system as is anyone else.

I wish we could bring this investigation to a close, but I happen to be on the committee involved in an investigation of various matters involving campaign finance and spying and that sort of thing. Senator SPECTER from

Pennsylvania chairs it, and Senator TORRICELLI is a member. We have an incredibly difficult time getting information and documents from this Government. No wonder it takes Mr. Starr and Mr. Ray so long and they are frustrated at every turn in obtaining evidence they need to make a legitimate decision and present a legitimate case to a grand jury.

I wish this were over. I wish we never had to talk about it. I don't intend to raise the subject myself. But as a Federal attorney, I have been in court trying to do my duty. I have made up my mind that I am not going to allow somebody who is doing his duty to gather the evidence and make a decision on whether a case ought to go forward to be abused and compared to somebody in Russia. I am not going to allow that. We need to speak out against that, and I intend to do so at every opportunity.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration, en bloc, of the following Energy Committee matters:

S. 397, Calendar No. 448; S. 503, Calendar No. 449; S. 1694, Calendar No. 450; S. 1167, Calendar No. 451; H.R. 150, Calendar No. 452; H.R. 834, Calendar No. 453; H.R. 1231, Calendar No. 454; H.R. 1444, Calendar No. 455; H.R. 2368, Calendar No. 456; H.R. 2862, Calendar No. 457; H.R. 2863, Calendar No. 458; S. 408, Calendar No. 462; S. 1218, Calendar No. 463; S. 1629, Calendar No. 467; H.R. 3090, Calendar No. 488; S. 1797, Calendar No. 494; S. 1892, Calendar No. 497.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that any committee amendments, where applicable, be agreed to, the bills then be considered read the third time and passed, as amended, if amended, any title amendments be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to any of these bills appear at this point in the RECORD, with the above occurring en bloc.

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

NATIONAL MATERIALS CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 397) to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish a multiagency program in support of the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative to promote energy efficient, environmentally sound economic development along the border with Mexico through the research, development, and use of new materials technology, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the en-

acting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Materials Corridor and United States-Mexico Border Technology Partnership Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the 2,000 mile long United States-Mexico border region, extending 100 kilometers north and south of the international boundary, has undergone rapid economic growth that has provided economic opportunity to millions of people;

(2) the border region's rapid economic growth has unfortunately created serious problems including pollution, hazardous wastes, and the inefficient use of resources that threaten people's health and the prospects for long-term economic growth in the region;

(3) there are a significant number of major institutions in the border States of both countries currently conducting research, development and testing activities in technologies that might help alleviate these problems;

(4)(A) these new technologies may provide major opportunities for significantly—

(i) minimizing industrial wastes and pollution that may pose a threat to public health;

(ii) reducing emissions of atmospheric pollutants;

(iii) using recycled natural resources as primary materials for industrial production; and

(iv) improving energy efficiency; and

(B) such advances will directly benefit both sides of the United States-Mexico border by encouraging energy efficient, environmentally sound economic development that improves the health and protects the natural resources of the border region;

(5) in August 1998, the binational United States-Mexico Border Region Hazardous Wastes Forum, organized by the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Area Office, resulted in a consensus of experts from the United States and Mexico that the Department of Energy's science and technology could be leveraged to address key environmental issues in the border region while fostering further economic development of the border region;

(6) the Carlsbad Area Office, which manages the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico, is well suited to lead a multiagency program focused on the problems of the border region given its significant expertise in hazardous materials and location near the border;

(7)(A) promoting clean materials industries in the border region that are energy efficient has been identified as a high priority issue by the United States-Mexico Foundation for Science Cooperation; and

(B) at the 1998 discussions of the United States-Mexico Binational Commission, Mexico formally proposed joint funding of a "Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative", proposing \$1,000,000 to implement the Initiative if matched by the United States;

(8) recognizing the importance of materials processing, research institutions in the border States of both the United States and Mexico, in conjunction with private sector partners of both nations, and with strong endorsement from the Government of Mexico, in 1998 organized the Materials Corridor Council to implement a cooperative program of materials research and development, education and training, and sustainable industrial development as part of the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative; and

(9) successful implementation of this Act would advance important United States energy, environmental, and economic goals not only in the United States-Mexico border region but also serve as a model for similar collaborative, transnational initiatives in other regions of the world.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a multiagency program to—

(1) alleviate the problems caused by rapid economic development along the United States-Mexico border;

(2) support the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative referred to in section 2(7); and

(3) promote energy efficient, environmentally sound economic development along that border through the development and use of new technologies, particularly hazardous waste and materials technologies.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PROGRAM.—The term "program" means the program established under section 5(a).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a multiagency program to—

(A) alleviate the problems caused by rapid economic development along the United States-Mexico border, particularly those associated with public health and environmental security;

(B) support the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative; and

(C) promote energy efficient, environmentally sound economic development along that border through the development and use of new technologies, particularly hazardous waste and materials technologies.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the program, the Secretary shall give due consideration to the proposal made to the United States-Mexico Binational Commission for the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative.

(3) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—This program shall be managed for the Secretary by the Department's Carlsbad Area Office, with support, as necessary, from the Albuquerque Operations Office.

(b) PARTICIPATION OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS.—The Secretary shall organize and conduct the program jointly with—

(1) the Department of State;

(2) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(3) the National Science Foundation;

(4) the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(5) the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission; and

(6) any other departments, agencies, or commissions the participation of which the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—When appropriate, funds made available under this act shall be made available for technology deployment, research, and training activities that are conducted with the participation and support of private sector organizations located in the United States and, subject to section 7(c)(2), Mexico, to promote and accelerate in the United States-Mexico border region the use of energy efficient, environmentally sound technologies and other advances resulting from the program.

(d) MEXICAN RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary shall—

(1) encourage public, private, nonprofit, and academic organizations located in Mexico to contribute significant financial and other resources to the program; and

(2) take any such contributions into account in conducting the program.

(e) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—In conducting the program, the Secretary shall emphasize the transfer and use of technology developed by the national laboratories of the Department of Energy.

SEC. 6. ACTIVITIES AND MAJOR PROGRAM ELEMENTS.

(a) ACTIVITIES.—Funds made available under this Act shall be made available for technology deployment, research, and training activities, particularly related to hazardous waste and materials technologies, that will alleviate the problems caused by rapid economic development