

Mr. DODD. I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UPDATE ON EVENTS IN THE CAPITOL COMPLEX

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I noted yesterday I would be coming to this Chamber. I will take a moment, if I may, to provide our colleagues with a short update on the circumstances involving the Senate today.

This has been a trying time for all of us, in particular for my office and staff. I am thankful for the outpouring of concern and support we have received, especially from the family of Senators. I am very grateful for their friendship, for their words of encouragement, for the strength they have given me and my staff over these very difficult days. It has meant a lot.

I wish to thank as well the many experts who have come to investigate and to help. I wish to recognize Secretary Thompson; Dr. Ken Moritsugu, deputy surgeon general; all of the Health and Human Services staff; Dr. John Eisold, our attending physician of the U.S. Capitol, and all the physicians who are working in his office; MG John Parker of the U.S. Army; Dr. Greg Martin, who has been unbelievable, an incredible help to my staff, to me, and to the entire Senate during this time.

There are a number of professionals who work with Dr. Martin at Bethesda Naval Hospital whom I want to recognize as well. Were it not for their effort, we would not be in the position we are today. They have been working around the clock analyzing the thousands of tests that were taken. Though they are not in the Capitol compound, they have had every bit as much to do with our success in dealing with these circumstances as anyone else. So we are extremely grateful to them for their work.

I want to thank as well the Centers for Disease Control, including Rima Khabbaz and Ali Khan; the District of Columbia Department of Public Health. Finally, I thank the members of the Senate family who have been working around the clock to address this situation, to coordinate our response, and see to it that the Senate was able to continue its important work.

Maybe first, among all of those, I thank our Secretary of the Senate and our Sergeant at Arms for their outstanding work. There were several nights where they literally did not go to bed. They stayed up the entire night working to be able to address the many challenges we were facing as we looked at the logistical and health concerns people had.

I also wish to thank Dr. BILL FRIST. He was in this Chamber earlier. He has been an amazing resource. While he is not present now, I know I speak for all of our colleagues in thanking him. He again spoke for all of us in a news con-

ference wherein he was able to answer in very understandable ways many of these complicated questions. So I personally thank him, and I know I speak for everybody in thanking him as well.

The challenge facing all of these people, and all of us, is unprecedented. To a person, every official I have mentioned has responded in the most admirable way. Their poise, their professionalism, their compassion have been a comfort to all of us, especially to my staff and me.

I want to provide an update on where we stand based on Dr. Moritsugu's briefing a few moments ago. It is now 72 hours after this incident occurred, and we now can say we are confident about the health of the public. Beyond the 31 positive nasal swabs I reported yesterday, the results on nasal swabs analyzed to date have all—and let me emphasize all—come back negative. The CDC has determined no further nasal swabs are needed. Tests on all of the nasal swabs collected on Monday will be completed by the end of today, although we may not be in session, so I chose this moment to come and give at least this partial report.

A total of 278 swabs were taken Monday. At this time, there are no further positive results. So the number of positive results to date remains at 31. Everyone who has tested positive has been notified by medical authorities.

Let me put some rumor to rest because it has been circulating all afternoon that some member of the leadership has been provided with a positive test result. The unequivocal clarification in that regard is, that story is not true. There is no positive result among any members of Senate leadership.

Testing also continues on approximately 1,400 swabs collected Tuesday. Of those, preliminary results on approximately 600 have produced no new positives. To this point, the CDC investigation has established the exposure area as the fifth and sixth floors in the southeast wing of the Hart Building. Based on this determination, the CDC has said no further nasal swabs are needed there.

People who were on the fifth and sixth floors in the southeast wing of the Hart Building on Monday are being reminded to complete their full 60-day course of antibiotics, regardless of the results of their nasal swabs. Anyone who entered that area but has not received antibiotics should report to the treatment center at the Architect of the Capitol facility on the southeast corner of 6th and East Capitol Streets.

A thorough environmental sweep of the Capitol complex began last night. It went on throughout the night and continues today. Those sweeps were conducted by the EPA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Areas were swept in the Capitol, the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Ford House Office Building, the Capitol Police offsite delivery center where all Capitol mail and deliveries go through security screening,

and at this time there are no additional results to report.

The sweeps will continue, as we reported yesterday, over the next several days of the other areas of the Capitol complex. The entire Capitol complex will be swept, and so there will not be any area left unattended or unchecked before we are cleared.

Numerous additional samples have been taken of the ventilation systems, and these samples are under evaluation. I think it is important to emphasize, too, at this time there is no evidence of contamination in the ventilation system.

Because of the extensive work being done, it is not clear when the Hart Building will reopen, but it will reopen as soon as we are absolutely confident it is completely safe.

I want to make one final point. The people who work in these buildings, regardless of their political affiliation, have come to the city and to the Congress because they believe in what this Nation represents to its citizens and to the world. Many have made sacrifices to do so. Some are accepting lower pay than they would receive elsewhere. Many are far from their families. All believe that by being here we can improve the lives of Americans and, in the process, make America stronger.

That letter may have been addressed to me, but these attacks didn't strike just my office. They struck at the heart of that belief. In the past couple of days, members of my staff, who have every right to be afraid, who have every right to take some time and be with their loved ones, have come to talk to me. More than one has told me they were more proud than ever to show up for work. This attack was meant to undercut that spirit. What I have seen in the past 3 days is all I need to know that the attack has missed its mark.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Everyone knows the close personal relationship I have with the majority leader. This statement I am making could come from any of the 99 Senators. It doesn't have to come from me.

The leader has gone out of his way to congratulate his staff, to compliment his staff, to talk about the great work the Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate have done. They deserve every bit of credit that the leader has given them. Senator FRIST deserves the credit he has been given by the majority leader. But speaking for the whole Senate, there is no one who deserves more credit during this time of strife and trouble and turmoil caused by evil people trying to do bad things than our majority leader. He has stood very tall.

I am speaking for the entire Senate, the people of the State of Nevada, the people of New Jersey, the people of Minnesota, the people of Maine. Everybody in this country is so proud of the

majority leader of the Senate. When the history books are written about people standing tall during a time of crisis, TOM DASCHLE will be at the top of that stack.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the distinguished Senator from Nevada for his kind and generous words. This has been a difficult challenge for all of us. I am grateful.

I note that any time somebody gives me credit for "standing tall," I will take that as the highest compliment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I echo the words of the Senator from Nevada. We have all been impressed with the tremendous grace and strength that our Senate majority leader has shown under unbelievable pressure. Our thoughts are with him and with his staff as they continue to go through this ordeal. He has, indeed, made every Member proud by his actions during this difficult time.

BETTER PHARMACEUTICALS FOR CHILDREN ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, and the Senator from Ohio, Mr. DEWINE, for today's passage of the Better Pharmaceuticals for Children Act. I am very pleased to be a cosponsor of this reauthorization. The American Academy of Pediatricians said it best. They saluted this law which we are now extending as being the single most important policy development to improve children's health that this body has ever taken. I am delighted to be a cosponsor of this important legislation.

I believe it will help facilitate breakthroughs in pharmaceutical treatments of children by ensuring proper testing and dosage. I commend the Senator from Connecticut and the Senator from Ohio for their excellent leadership.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1570 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

CONGRATULATING SENATE STAFF

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise late in the afternoon today of what has been a highly unusual day in the Senate—in Washington. I want to take a moment to congratulate all the people who are working, all the people who are working in the Senate Chamber, all the Members' staffs who are working. Hearings have been held today. The Senate has been in session and work is continuing. I thank them for their dedication. I thank them for what they mean for our country and what they have done to help our country.

The vast majority of people who work on Capitol Hill, at least from my

perspective in life, are fairly young. They have gone through something that no members of staffs have ever gone through before. They have done very well. I congratulate them and thank them.

I want to pay particular tribute to my staff and thank them. Eight members of my staff have been tested, as have hundreds of other members of other staffs. I also want to pay particular tribute to my State director, Barbara Schenk. Barbara has gone through a very difficult time in the last few weeks. Her brother, Doug Cherry, died in the World Trade Center. So our thoughts and prayers go to her and to her family and the Cherry family.

BEST PHARMACEUTICALS FOR CHILDREN ACT

Mr. DEWINE. One of the things that passed today was a bill that Senator DODD and I have been working on for some time. Senator DODD talked a little bit about it on the Senate floor earlier today. This bill is S. 838, the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act.

This is reauthorization legislation which Senator DODD and I wrote to ensure that more medicines are tested for children and that useful prescribing and dosing information appears on labels.

Let me take a moment on a personal note to congratulate my friend, Senator DODD, and his wife Jackie on the recent birth of their daughter Grace. I had the opportunity a couple of days ago when Senator DODD and his wife Jackie brought baby Grace into the Capitol to see baby Grace, a beautiful child—a great joy. So our congratulations go to both of them.

It is appropriate that the first piece of legislation that Senator DODD passed after the birth of his little girl was a bill that will help children, a bill that will make sure that good pharmaceuticals are available for children and that doctors, specifically pediatricians, and parents will know what the dosage for each medicine should be for their particular child, for the age of that child.

Four years ago, Senator DODD and I first learned that the vast majority of drugs in this country that came on the market every week—in fact over 80 percent—had never been formally tested or approved for pediatric use and therefore lacked even the most basic labeling information regarding dosing recommendations for children. When we found that out, we began writing what is now referred to as the pediatric exclusivity law. That bill passed. In the 3 years since that law went into effect, the FDA has issued about 200 written requests for pediatric studies.

Companies have undertaken over 400 pediatric studies, of which over 58 studies have been completed, for a wide range of critical diseases, including juvenile diabetes, the problem of pain, asthma, and hypertension.

Mr. President, 37 drugs have been granted pediatric exclusivity. Some studies generated by this incentive have led to essential dosing information; for example, Luvox. Luvox is a drug prescribed to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder. Pediatric studies performed pursuant to our law have shown inadequate dosing for adolescents, which resulted in ineffective treatment. The studies also have shown that some girls between the ages of 8 and 11 were potentially overdosed, with levels up to 2 to 3 times that which was really needed.

Since our law has been in effect, the private sector has increased its investment in pediatric training and developing an infrastructure to support and expand pediatric research. The FDA stated in a January 2001 report:

The pediatric exclusivity provision has done more to generate clinical studies and useful prescribing information for the pediatric population than any other regulatory or legislative process to date.

The bill this Senate and House passed 3 years ago has done a great deal of good. We are seeing more drugs for children on the market that have a label that tells how they can be used, and more basic information for pediatricians. So when they look at that little child and they know the weight of that child and they know the weight of that child, they can look it up and see exactly what the prescription should be, what the dosage should be, what the indicators are. They can do that because we have given the pharmaceutical companies an incentive to do that research, research they were doing prior to passage of this bill in only 20 percent of the cases.

A great deal of progress has been made, but we have further to go. That is what we were about today with the passage of the bill that I am now describing. Senator DODD and I and the other cosponsors knew that the law we passed 3 years ago could be improved. We knew that it had some holes in it. We set out to improve that, to fill the gaps, and address the outstanding issues, such as the testing of off-patent drugs, which the original law was never designed to include. It is understandable why the original law wasn't designed to include off-patent drugs. The original law extended the patent by 6 months. They extend it for 6 months if and only if they tested these drugs for children.

If a drug is not on-patent, if it is off-patent, the patent has basically expired, obviously that incentive doesn't do any good. What we tried to do with this bill that we passed today was to change that and therefore expand it and expand the purpose of this bill to include off-patent drugs as well.

For some products and some age groups, the existing market incentives are simply inadequate to encourage new pediatric research. In the bill we passed several hours ago, we have built upon the existing law's basic incentive structure to further ensure that these