

the imperative of rooting out terrorism wherever it may lurk. As a result, the public is unified in its desire to take decisive action. The legislation that Senator Burns and I are offering today would allow the Secretary of Treasury to channel and sustain American compassion and unity.

Specifically, we propose allowing the Secretary to establish a new form of U.S. savings bond that would be designated war bonds. The war bonds would be in such form and denominations and be subject to such terms and conditions that the Secretary deemed most appropriate.

Some have pointed out that current economic conditions may argue against the need for war bonds to be used as a tool for funding the war on terrorism. I argue that view misses the most important point. There is no question that America is the most powerful nation economically and militarily on earth. However, what is less certain is the very nature of this effort, and a war bond campaign could be an invaluable tool for the government to explain the complex nature of the threats we face and rally all Americans to help provide necessary responses.

If the Government chooses to engage in this effort, I envision a war bond drive similar to those that were so successful during World War II. Influential Americans could be engaged to lead the education effort across the country, and all Americans would have the ability to participate in what is going to be a lengthy and complicated challenge. Success would be measured less by how much revenue is raised than by the Government's ability to maintain overwhelming approval of the actions it must undertake as we seek to eradicate the threat of terrorism.

Additionally some may argue that our use of the term "war bonds" is incendiary or inappropriate. Again, I would differ with this view. There is no question that the attacks of last Tuesday were acts of war. And, there is equally little doubt that America now finds itself in a state of war against the perpetrators of those vile and evil acts. Additionally, the phrase "war bonds" evokes the successful efforts which were undertaken during World War II. And if there is any doubt about how war bonds resonate with the American people, one need only look at the overwhelming response my office has received since introducing this legislation last week. In fact, I have even been contacted by one patriotic American who has reserved the domain name www.warbands.gov as well as a toll free number for a war bonds drive.

In closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment which would allow the Secretary to establish war bonds and continue a long and proud tradition of American citizen involvement in our Nation's most important causes.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today, I proudly join my dear friend and colleague, Senator MITCH McCONNELL, in

offering an amendment to the Treasury, General Government Bill introducing the War Bond Amendment of 2001.

This legislation is in response to the many constituents in my state and indeed, Americans from all over this country, looking for a tangible opportunity to do something positive in reaction to the despicable acts of cowardice perpetrated upon this nation and its citizens by gutless and faceless cowards.

The act will create an opportunity for ordinary citizens to participate in this country's recovery and response to those acts and to support the President and our nation in the rebuilding efforts as well as bringing to justice those responsible for the horrific death and destruction of Tuesday, September 11th, 2001.

Throughout this nation's history, bonds have been used as a vehicle for our citizens to come to the aid of this nation and now, as much as ever in our nation's history, the combined support of our people is needed. By investing in these bonds, Americans are given a way to feel a part of the solution rather than feeling helpless in the face of these terrible events of last week.

Americans are not only demanding action, they are looking for an opportunity to be of service themselves, to demonstrate their commitment to this country and to do it in a meaningful, tangible way. This bill is one answer to that demand and that opportunity.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

THE STARK REALITY OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACKS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, in the midst of the disaster we saw in New York, we had a number of images all of us will remember. One that will stick in my mind was as one of those great buildings was collapsing and the smoke and the dust and debris were barreling down the streets and people were running away, one of those people who was running was a fireman. As he got to a certain point, he slowed down, took off his hat and threw it as hard as he possibly could.

That courageous professional at that moment knew hundreds, perhaps thousands, were dying in that building and he could not save them, that many of his friends and brother firemen had been there at the scene closer than he,

inside the building, and that they would not make it out.

It was a very poignant scene for me, and having been involved in some of these issues on the Judiciary Committee and as a Member of the Senate, I think it is important for each one of us to remember that in any terrorist attack, any really serious national disaster we have in this country, it will not be the Federal Government that is first on the scene. It will be our police officers and firemen, hundreds of whom we lost in New York City, doing what they were paid to do—respond to the scene, to give aid to those in distress, at the risk of their lives. Certainly the Biblical reference that "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," applies to those people.

We as a nation know we have problems with terrorism. We as a nation have heard people talk for days on television that we could be facing a chemical or biological attack or even a nuclear attack.

We need to ask ourselves, and we have been asking ourselves in this Senate for some time, and I have been actively involved in this, how are we training those first responders who are there to react to that event. Each event is different. This event is different from a biological attack, a chemical poison gas attack would be different from a biological attack, and a nuclear attack would be different. And who knows what else could be conjured up in the minds of these diabolical people.

It is important for this Nation to fulfill our obligation to those people we will be sending out to respond to these events, that they have the very best in equipment and the very best knowledge and training on how to handle each and every one of these events, each being different from the other.

We have begun to make progress on that. I congratulate Senator BYRD, Senator JUDD GREGG who chairs the relevant subcommittee, Senator RICHARD SHELBY of Alabama, a member of the Appropriations Committee, and others who have over the past few years taken steps to establish programs to train those first responders, those firemen, those policemen, those emergency medical technicians.

I am particularly interested in the Center for Domestic Preparedness at Anniston, AL, a center developed around 1997, 1998, where they are training 5,000 first responders from all over the country. That center is in the old Fort McClellan, the military base that was a chemical training school for the U.S. Army that had a cadre of people with expertise in chemical and biological issues, and it had live agent training forces for them. They had the barracks from the closed military base, places to stay, exercise rooms, and classrooms available. It was the perfect location to establish this center. It has done well.

Just a few weeks before this tragedy occurred, I was very pleased to see we

had a major increase in funding for that center, taking us now to \$30 million for the year. Of the total of the perhaps \$20 billion we spend on terrorism, maybe more in this country, it is very small. But that will allow us, if it becomes final law this year—and I hope it will, particularly after this tragic event—to train, instead of 5,000 first responders a year, 10,000 first responders a year. They will be able to deploy them around this country. In fact, many have already been trained. We have received great references from the people who have completed the training. The chiefs of police and firemen who sent their members to the school have bragged about the training they received. Indeed, New York has sent a lot of people there; 146 of New York police and firefighters have been trained as first responders and 226 in the Washington, DC, metro area have been so trained. We are making progress. I believe it is the right thing to do.

At a time like this, we don't need to overreact. We don't need to do things that are not appropriate. But we need to coalesce all the information we have been gathering for a number of years that relates to the kind of attacks this Nation may face, take that information and make decisions about how to be better prepared. One of the most critical things we can say is every first responder, every firemen, every policemen, every emergency medical technician in the country needs to have been given by his or her Federal Government the best information we can give them when they are asked to put their lives on the line and respond to an attack.

We have equipment and we need to make sure we can use the equipment to determine if it is a biological agent or chemical agent that may be distressing people in a certain area of town. We need to know that before we go in there. This is a matter about which I feel strongly.

It is appropriate, as so many have, to pay the highest tribute to those people, particularly in New York City, who are at great risk of their lives, and many of whom lost their lives, responded to the care and protection of American citizens. We give great tribute to them. We also must give them the tools, the information, the training and equipment so they can be even better at protecting our citizens' lives and even better at protecting their own lives.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

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

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, one of our colleagues, Senator MCCONNELL, today offered an amendment. I believe that amendment dealing with the issuance of war bonds is now pending. Another of our colleagues has a proposal in the form of an amendment dealing with what are called unity bonds. That is Senator JOHNSON from South Dakota. He asked that this be introduced on his behalf, and as manager I will do so.

I ask unanimous consent that we set aside the McConnell amendment.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1574

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk offered by Senator JOHNSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], for Mr. JOHNSON, proposes an amendment numbered 1574.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Unity Bonds Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) a national tragedy occurred on September 11, 2001, whereby certain individuals tried to steal America's freedom;

(2) Americans stand together to resist all attempts to steal their freedom;

(3) united, Americans will be victorious over their enemies, whether known or unknown; and

(4) Americans must respond to this tragedy in a spirit not of revenge, but of justice.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF UNITY BONDS.

Section 3102 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) ISSUANCE OF UNITY BONDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue bonds under this section, to be known as 'Unity Bonds', in response to the acts of terrorism perpetrated against the United States on September 11, 2001.

“(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Proceeds from the issuance of Unity Bonds shall be used to raise funds to assist in recovery and relief operations following the terrorist acts referred to in paragraph (1), including humanitarian assistance, and to combat terrorism.

“(3) FORM.—The bonds authorized by paragraph (1) shall be in such form and denominations, and shall be subject to such terms and conditions of issue, conversion, redemption, maturation, payment, and rate of interest as the Secretary may prescribe.”

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a bill to unite our citizens in this time of great crisis. As Americans, we feel many emotions, from anger to sadness, because of the tragedy of the terrorist attacks this past week.

The American people have responded with incredible acts of heroism, kindness, and generosity. The outpouring of volunteers, blood donors, and contribu-

tions of food and money demonstrates that America will unite to provide relief to the victims of these cowardly terrorist acts. This response is the true American spirit our country has always known.

So many of my constituents in South Dakota have called my office this week to ask what they can possibly do to help their fellow Americans who are suffering today. Many have given blood, others have donated to aid organizations, and most have offered prayers for the victims and their families. One woman asked whether she could buy the equivalent of the old war bonds that allowed our citizens to contribute to the war effort back in World War II.

Based on my constituent's idea, today I am introducing legislation that directs the United States Treasury to issue Unity Bonds. Americans who purchase these savings bonds will be contributing to disaster relief to the victims of Tuesday's attack and to our Nation's war against terrorism.

We will recover from this week's attacks. We will rebuild our Nation's infrastructure, and we will rebuild our Nation's spirit. But it will take a sustained, long-term effort to stamp out terrorism against the United States and all other liberty-loving nations.

Unity Bonds will allow Americans who want to show their support for this great country to participate in a meaningful way. I urge you to join me in helping to unite our citizens.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I think both of my colleagues, Senator MCCONNELL and Senator JOHNSON, have offered constructive ideas. They come at it in a slightly different way, but their amendments are very similar. It is my hope that perhaps they can get together and bring their amendments together, and together offer it today as well.

I don't know whether we will finish this bill today. My hope is that we can find a way to actually finish this legislation today. I don't know that we have any requirement for a recorded vote on our side. I don't know whether they have a requirement on the Republican side.

But my hope is that perhaps if we can finish this bill today, we can have a vote and perhaps seek a rollcall vote on the conference when the conference report comes back. But that is up to the members of both caucuses. We will not make that request at this moment.

I hope that perhaps other people will consider that. We have a number of amendments that have been discussed. We are now in the process of trying to determine what the list of amendments will be, and we hope to have that at some point. I would like to believe that we can, if we work hard, deal with the amendments we know of on our side and the other side, and try to complete this bill pretty much this evening.

Mr. President, I will wait for a bit. I have a managers' amendment, a managers' package that I will send to the desk in a few minutes. It has been