

one of those planes into the World Trade Center Towers. It was a terrible mistake that never should have happened.

The problem is the databases and data systems do not talk to each other; they are not up to speed. They would not even pass muster in most businesses in America today. This bill calls upon the President to develop and implement an interoperable law enforcement and data system for visa admissibility and deportation determination purposes. The INS must integrate their systems. They have antiquated systems that do not do the job, that cannot even talk to each other.

It also requires the State Department, upon issuing a visa, to provide the INS with an electronic version of the alien's visa file before the alien enters the United States. In addition to addressing this issue of interoperability, the bill also requires relevant Federal agencies to work toward implementing an integrated entry and exit system and to move toward developing and using tamper-resistant, machine-readable documents containing biometric identifiers.

If we are able to put into the sky robot-controlled, predator aircraft to track down and take out enemy artillery installations, we ought to be able to figure out how to have a decent data system for the INS that can provide information to us and uses biometric identifiers right here on the ground to track down, deport, or arrest wherever necessary anyone who intends to do us harm.

Next, we have to have the assurance that citizens of countries that sponsor terrorism will not be allowed to enter this country unless the Secretary of State determines that the person seeking entry does not pose a security threat to the United States.

We have made it very easy for people to come back and forth. That is the American tradition. Unfortunately, what we learned on 9-11 is that some people in some countries take advantage of our hospitality and our welcome to the United States. We have to support this provision which starts from the premise that if you are coming from a state-sponsored terrorism base, even if you are totally innocent—you have nothing to do with the intelligence services, you have nothing to do with terrorism—the burden is on you. We need to shift that presumption to make sure we are not letting in people who are part of a terrorist network.

Finally, with respect to foreign student visas and exchange visitors, the bill requires the Justice Department to develop an electronic means of verifying and monitoring the Foreign Student and Exchange Visitor Information Program, including aspects of documentation and visa issuance, U.S. admission, institution notification, documentation transmittal, registration, and enrollment.

All educational institutions at which foreign students are registered must

notify the INS of the failure of such a student or an exchange visitor to enroll within 30 days of the registration deadline.

Education is a privilege, and we are very pleased that in our country we offer so many first-rate educational institutions to students from around the world, but again we have to be smart about this. We cannot let anyone take advantage of our openness. We have to have a system so if someone says he or she is coming to study at one of our universities, that is not the end; that is the beginning of the process to determine whether that actually is the fact or whether, as we unfortunately learned post-9-11, there are people who claim to be coming to this country to be students and that is not their intention whatsoever.

These are a few of the many provisions in this bill that I believe would make us a safer nation by securing our borders. There are probably no people in our country more committed to passing this legislation than the Families of September 11. I have heard from a number of the widows and parents of victims who have made it very clear this is their top priority. MaryEllen Salamone, whose husband John was killed by the terrorists on September 11 at the World Trade Center, was in Washington this past Friday representing Families of September 11 to urge us to act. She appeared before the Immigration Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee and said that all of us need to heed the warnings we now know were flashing but no one could see them, read them, understand or apply them, so that we must now act to make sure nothing like this can happen again.

The legislation is long overdue. It is much needed, and I call upon all of our colleagues to support it as soon as possible.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:33 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. EDWARDS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of North Carolina, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. 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 ANWR AMENDMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding today is finally the day,

after 18 days, that we are going to have the great amendment on ANWR. After all this time and all the promises, I think it is finally coming up. We are looking with anticipation to this amendment and this debate because this is really what we have been waiting for on the bill. We have been told that if we focus on what the Republicans want on this bill, we will finally get the opportunity to debate it.

The reason I say that—and the Chair recognizes I am being a little facetious—is that I have been out here many different days asking, When? Today? If you don't offer it, we are going to offer it—and all of these different things we have tried to do to get something moving forward on this legislation. But I do say I am glad it is finally going to be offered. It is my understanding it will be offered momentarily.

I say that because even though the Alaska wilderness is far removed from the State of Nevada where I was born and raised, the two climates are much alike in the sense that they are both delicate. People think that Nevada deserts can be easily disturbed and that it doesn't matter. In the past, our beautiful deserts have been treated that way in many respects. Right near Searchlight where I was born and raised, during the Second World War when we had the South African campaign, the troops who were going overseas trained right below Searchlight. You can still see today the tank tracks through some parts of that country. Even though it is very arid, disturbance takes a long time to get rid of in the desert.

We have in the desert what was called Camp Ibis. In that whole area, there were about 2 million men training for the Second World War and for campaigns around the world. We had, of course, the gunnery range. It was called the Las Vegas Gunnery Range, which is now Nellis Air Force Base. We had Indian Springs Air Force Base, Stead Air Force Base, the Fallon Naval Training Center, and the Hawthorne Ammunition Depot. Then of course in the high desert in Nevada, we had the Nevada Test Site where, to this point, almost 1,000 nuclear devices have been set off above ground and underground.

People have come to recognize that the desert is not a place you can easily disturb without having a long-lasting impact.

Outside the home I have in Searchlight, there are old Joshua trees and yucca trees. We also have creosote bushes, or greasewood trees. They are especially beautiful when it rains because of the smell. The aroma that comes off those bushes is interesting. You have bushes of all sizes, and those that are high off the ground are more than 100 years old. Sometimes they are older than that. They grow little by little because there is no water in the desert.

My point in comparing the Alaska wilderness to what we have in Nevada

is that we have to be very careful how we handle and protect it. A majority of the people in America do not want the ANWR disturbed because they believe there are areas that we should leave pristine and untouched. People thought that in Nevada it didn't matter that the desert tortoise needs lots of open space. We call them turtles, but the proper name is desert tortoise. There was a time when they were placed on the endangered list. To protect these turtles, we have had to really do lots of things differently. Because of the press of population, we are killing these animals. And extinction is forever. That is what we have to recognize.

I will say what I have said here on a number of occasions. Out of 100 percent of the total oil reserves in the world, America, including ANWR, has 3 percent of the oil reserves; 97 percent of the oil reserves are elsewhere. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have about 47 percent. As you know, not only do they have large quantities of oil, but it is very easy to get out of the ground.

My point is that we must maintain some of our pristine wilderness areas. One of those we are going to protect is ANWR.

Eighty-seven percent of the land in the State of Nevada is owned by the Federal Government. We are a very densely populated State. People do not understand that. Most say that we are the most densely populated State in America. Why? Because 90 percent of the people live in two metropolitan areas—Reno and Las Vegas.

Eighty-seven percent of Nevada is owned by the Federal Government. What does that mean? It means that 87 percent is as much yours as it is mine. I think we should do what we can to get more of that land into the private sector. But I recognize that federal lands are as much yours as they are mine. That is the same as the ANWR wilderness. That land is as much mine as it is the Senator from Alaska.

I am going to do everything I can to protect that pristine wilderness because we don't have many areas in the whole world that are pristine, let alone in the United States.

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

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

NATIONAL LABORATORIES PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 517, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 517) to authorize funding the Department of Energy to enhance its mission areas through technology transfer and part-

nerships for fiscal years 2002 through 2006, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Daschle/Bingaman further modified amendment No. 2917, in the nature of a substitute.

Kerry/McCain amendment No. 2999 (to amendment No. 2917), to provide for increased average fuel economy standards for passenger automobiles and light trucks.

Dayton/Grassley amendment No. 3008 (to amendment No. 2917), to require that Federal agencies use ethanol-blended gasoline and biodiesel-blended diesel fuel in areas in which ethanol-blended gasoline and biodiesel-blended diesel fuel are available.

Lott amendment No. 3028 (to amendment No. 2917), to provide for the fair treatment of Presidential judicial nominees.

Landrieu/Kyl amendment No. 3050 (to amendment No. 2917), to increase the transfer capability of electric energy transmission systems through participant-funded investment.

Graham amendment No. 3070 (to amendment No. 2917), to clarify the provisions relating to the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Schumer/Clinton amendment No. 3093 (to amendment No. 2917), to prohibit oil and gas drilling activity in Finger Lakes National Forest, New York.

Dayton amendment No. 3097 (to amendment No. 2917), to require additional findings for FERC approval of an electric utility merger.

Schumer amendment No. 3030 (to amendment No. 2917), to strike the section establishing a renewable fuel content requirement for motor vehicle fuel.

Feinstein/Boxer amendment No. 3115 (to amendment No. 2917), to modify the provision relating to the renewable content of motor vehicle fuel to eliminate the required volume of renewable fuel for calendar year 2004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

AMENDMENT NO. 3132 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2917

(Purpose: To create jobs for Americans, to reduce dependence on foreign sources of crude oil and energy, to strengthen the economic self-determination of the Inupiat Eskimos and to promote national security)

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI], for himself and Mr. BREAUX, proposes an amendment numbered 3132 to amendment No. 2917.

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

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

AMENDMENT NO. 3133 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3132

(Purpose: To create jobs for Americans, to strengthen the United States steel industry, to reduce dependence on foreign sources of crude oil and energy, and to promote national security)

Mr. STEVENS. I send to the desk an amendment to the Murkowski amendment No. 3132.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] proposes an amendment numbered 3133 to amendment No. 3132.

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

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. The underlying amendment was introduced by Senator STEVENS, myself, and Senator BREAUX and, as a consequence, I think deserves some explanation relative to the specifics that are in the underlying amendment.

The items for consideration, some of which were in H.R. 4, include specifically a 2,000-acre limitation on surface disturbance. Specifically, an export ban of any oil from the refuge cannot under any circumstances be exported, with the provision of authority for exports to Israel. Further, we would extend the U.S./Israeli oil supply arrangement, which is due to expire in the year 2004, to the year 2014.

We would further have a wilderness increase designation, adding a million and a half acres of wilderness from the current refuge management in the southern portion of the refuge.

Finally, there would be a Presidential finding—and this Presidential finding is quite specific that the refuge would not be open until the President makes a finding it is in the national security interest of this Nation.

There would also be a triggering mechanism such as energy supply, threat to strategic reserves not sufficient to cover.

I encourage my colleagues to reflect a little bit on how the underlying amendment was constructed. A great deal of time went into this effort by Members of both parties. I know there has been some frustration about the manner in which this amendment has been brought before the body, and I know there is a question of why we simply do not introduce the House-passed bill, H.R. 4.

The reason is very simple. We have taken a radically different approach because, as I have indicated in my opening remarks, the amendment we offer today does not open ANWR, per se. Let me repeat, the amendment does not give the authority to open ANWR. Rather, the amendment grants the President the authority to open the area for safe exploration only if he makes a determination it is in the national security interest of this country. Obviously, the President has the power, given to him in the Constitution, for extraordinary responsibilities associated with the decisionmaking process, and it is clearly appropriate in this time of crisis that the President be given that authority.