

Speaker HASTERT that the bill should come over to us in a matter of days. That is good news, and I am pleased to hear it.

I, too, thank the Senator from Kentucky. He was very gracious in his remarks today. Whether or not we miss this process in the future is one issue. Certainly that has been the nature of the experience over these many years, and I sincerely thank him for that.

The possibility of delay still exists in this body. I sincerely thank the majority leader for his tremendous commitment today to bring up the bill in the Senate as soon as it comes over and to lead us in fighting through whatever procedural hoops might be placed in our path to try to stop the Senate from acting on the bill.

We had a long, fair, and good debate last year on this legislation. Any effort to prevent the Senate from acting on the bill I think will simply delay the inevitable; it would frustrate the will of the Senate and the will of the American people.

Yesterday's strong bipartisan vote in the House after marathon debate demonstrates once again the time has come to pass the bill. As much as some tried to deny or rationalize it, the soft money system taints all of us in this body, and it truly undermines our credibility with the American people.

There does come a time when we have to say enough. That time is now. As soon as the bill comes to us from the House, let's take it up; let everyone say a final word about their positions, and then send it to the President to be signed into law.

Again, I thank the majority leader. I thank my good friend, Senator MCCAIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REED). The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin and the distinguished Senator from Arizona for their incredible leadership. History will be written, and when it is, these two outstanding Senators will be acknowledged for the tremendous contribution they have made to the improvement of our political system.

Once again, and not for the last time, I acknowledge their leadership and appreciate very much the effort they have made to get us to this point.

#### EQUAL PROTECTION OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2001—Continued

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to make sure that I clarify something. Just because we are not having additional votes does not mean Senators could not come over and offer additional amendments. Senator DODD has indicated a desire to stay here for as long as there are those who have amendments. We may be able to obtain a finite list. I hope we can continue to chip away at those amendments tonight and tomorrow.

I want to accommodate Senators who have dates with spouses and significant

others, but there may be those who have neither and would be more than willing to come over and talk about election reform. If that is the case, we are ready. I know Senator McConnell is every bit as interested in moving this legislation along.

I applaud our managers and thank them for their willingness to stay here and continue this effort. Please, if Senators have amendments, come to the floor. We will do these two votes and we are interested in doing more, even though we will not have additional rollcall votes tonight.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2891, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2891, as amended.

The amendment (No. 2891), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. DODD. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

AMENDMENT NO. 2890

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, is the pending business now the Lieberman amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DODD. 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. BINGAMAN. 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. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 6 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. BINGAMAN are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. BINGAMAN. 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. DODD. 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 Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am about to propound a unanimous consent request which has been cleared on both sides. I ask unanimous consent that at 5:16 p.m. today the Senate resume consideration of the Lieberman amendment, No. 2890; that there be 2 minutes of explanation and the Senate then vote in relation to the amendment;

that following the vote, regardless of the outcome, the Senate resume consideration of the Burns amendment and there be 2 minutes of explanation prior to a vote in relation to the amendment; that no second-degree amendments be in order to either of the two amendments prior to the vote, with all time equally divided and controlled in the usual form; and that if an amendment is not disposed of, it recur in the order in which it was voted, without further intervening action or debate.

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2890, AS MODIFIED

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to modify the amendment. Apparently one of the pages of the amendment was inadvertently left off.

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

The amendment will be so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To authorize administrative leave for Federal employees to perform poll worker service in Federal elections)

At the end of title IV, add the following:

#### SEC. 402. AUTHORIZED LEAVE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO PERFORM POLL WORKER SERVICE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Federal Employee Voter Assistance Act of 2002".

(b) LEAVE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 6328 the following:

#### "§ 6329. Leave for poll worker service

"(a) In this section, the term—

"(1) 'employee' means an employee of an Executive agency (other than the General Accounting Office) who is not a political appointee;

"(2) 'political appointee' means any individual who—

"(A) is employed in a position that requires appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

"(B) is employed in a position on the executive schedule under sections 5312 through 5316;

"(C) is a noncareer appointee in the senior executive service as defined under section 3132(a)(7); or

"(D) is employed in a position that is excepted from the competitive service because of the confidential policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character of the position; and

"(3) 'poll worker service'—

"(A) means—

"(i) administrative and clerical, non-partisan service relating to a Federal election performed at a polling place on the date of that election; and

"(ii) training before or on that date to perform service described under clause (i); and

“(B) shall not include taking an active part in political management or political campaigns as defined under section 7323(b)(4).

“(b)(1)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the head of an agency shall grant an employee paid leave under this section to perform poll worker service.

“(B) The head of an agency may deny any request for leave under this section if the denial is based on the exigencies of the public business.

“(2) Leave under this section—

“(A) shall be in addition to any other leave to which an employee is otherwise entitled;

“(B) may not exceed 3 days in any calendar year; and

“(C) may be used only in the calendar year in which that leave is granted.

“(3) An employee requesting leave under this section shall submit written documentation from election officials substantiating the training and service of the employee.

“(4) An employee who uses leave under this section to perform poll worker service may not receive payment for that poll worker service.”

(b) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than June 1, 2005, the Office of Personnel Management shall submit a report to Congress on the implementation of section 6329 of title 5, United States Code (as added by this section), and the extent of participation by Federal employees under that section.

(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of each general election for the Office of the President, the Office of Personnel Management shall submit a report to Congress on the participation of Federal employees under section 6329 of title 5, United States Code (as added by this section), with respect to all Federal elections which occurred in the 54-month period preceding that submission date.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 1, 2008.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6328 the following:

“6329. Leave for poll worker service.”

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, this section shall take effect 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, very briefly, this amendment responds to a problem that exists with implementing the election laws of our country which will be greatly strengthened if we pass the bill that is before the Senate now. That problem is the shortage of nonpartisan poll workers, documented by the GAO and the commission headed by Presidents Carter and Ford. This amendment builds on a successful program started, at least one I know of, in Los Angeles County and in the State of California to allow civil servants—not political appointees but civil servants—to take election day off at the request of local election officials, to work as nonpartisan poll

workers while continuing to be paid for their Federal employment, receiving no compensation from the election officials of local jurisdiction.

I have the feeling I have sufficiently described what I believe is a very meritorious amendment. I urge its adoption.

Mr. MCCONNELL. With all due respect to my friend from Connecticut, he is not talking about election officers; every State has an equal number of Democrats and Republicans who put on the election and keep it honest. What my friend from Connecticut is talking about is poll workers; in other words, workers who will go work for one candidate or another. We know Federal employees are overwhelmingly Democratic, Federal employee unions are overwhelmingly on the Democratic side.

In effect, what the Senator from Connecticut is suggesting is that Federal union employees be given a paid holiday by the taxpayers of the United States to go out and work for Democratic officials on election day. I strongly urge this amendment be defeated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the modified amendment of the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. LIEBERMAN, No. 2890.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 33 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Akaka	Durbin	Lincoln
Bayh	Edwards	Mikulski
Biden	Feingold	Miller
Bingaman	Feinstein	Murray
Boxer	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Breaux	Harkin	Reed
Byrd	Hollings	Reid
Cantwell	Inouye	Rockefeller
Carnahan	Jeffords	Sarbanes
Carper	Johnson	Schumer
Cleland	Kennedy	Stabenow
Clinton	Kerry	Torricelli
Corzine	Landrieu	Wellstone
Daschle	Leahy	Wyden
Dayton	Levin	
Dodd	Lieberman	

NAYS—49

Allard	Crapo	Helms
Allen	DeWine	Hutchinson
Bond	Dorgan	Hutchinson
Brownback	Ensign	Inhofe
Bunning	Enzi	Kohl
Burns	Fitzgerald	Kyl
Chafee	Frist	Lott
Cochran	Gramm	Lugar
Collins	Grassley	McCain
Conrad	Gregg	McConnell
Craig	Hagel	Murkowski

Nelson (NE)	Smith (NH)	Thompson
Nickles	Smith (OR)	Thurmond
Roberts	Snowe	Voinovich
Santorum	Specter	Warner
Sessions	Stevens	
Shelby	Thomas	

NOT VOTING—5

Baucus	Campbell	Hatch
Bennett	Domenici	

The amendment (No. 2990), as modified, was rejected.

Mr. CRAIG. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2887

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are now 2 minutes equally divided on the Burns amendment.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I understand there is a minute on each side on the Burns amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DODD. I yield to the Senator from Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. I thank my good friend.

Mr. President, this amendment is pretty simple. It allows the director of elections in each county or the secretary of state to purge the list every 4 years, or every other Federal election.

Right now, they cannot purge it but every other Presidential election. So you are carrying dead weight for 8 years. It costs Missoula County \$16,000 just to maintain these big lists. It also makes a lot of people ineligible to vote even though they are on the list.

This is strongly supported by the secretaries of state of your States. I ask for your support. This makes more sense. This is where the mischief is in elections.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished Senator from New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to this amendment. Right now, the voter lists have to be purged every 8 years. The Burns amendment would conflict with the motor-voter law; furthermore, many people would be needlessly purged. People who did not vote in two elections would be purged from the list and would have to reregister.

In a bill where we are trying to make it easier for people to vote, this takes

two steps backwards and makes it harder.

We have taken care of this in the bill. The lists are purged at some point, but it should be a longer period of time. Simply because you miss two elections should not take you off the rolls.

I urge defeat of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, very simply stated, you have the right to vote, but you also have the right not to vote in two elections and not be purged. If the Burns amendment were adopted, and you missed two elections because you didn't want to vote, you would be off the list. That is too extreme.

I urge rejection of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2887. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. DAYTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 40, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 34 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Allard	Grassley	Santorum
Allen	Gregg	Sessions
Brownback	Hagel	Shelby
Bunning	Helms	Smith (NH)
Burns	Hutchinson	Smith (OR)
Cochran	Hutchinson	Snowe
Craig	Inhofe	Specter
Crapo	Kyl	Stevens
DeWine	Lott	Thomas
Ensign	Lugar	Thompson
Enzi	McConnell	Thurmond
Fitzgerald	Murkowski	Warner
Frist	Nickles	
Gramm	Roberts	

NAYS—55

Akaka	Dodd	Lincoln
Bayh	Dorgan	McCain
Biden	Durbin	Mikulski
Bingaman	Edwards	Miller
Bond	Feingold	Murray
Boxer	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Breaux	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Byrd	Harkin	Reed
Cantwell	Hollings	Reid
Carnahan	Inouye	Rockefeller
Carper	Jeffords	Sarbanes
Chafee	Johnson	Schumer
Cleland	Kennedy	Stabenow
Clinton	Kerry	Torricelli
Collins	Kohl	Voinovich
Conrad	Landrieu	Wellstone
Corzine	Leahy	Wyden
Daschle	Levin	
Dayton	Lieberman	

NOT VOTING—5

Baucus	Campbell	Hatch
Bennett	Domenici	

The amendment (No. 2887) was rejected.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CRAIG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

AMENDMENT NO. 2906

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I call up the amendment I have at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mrs. CLINTON] proposes an amendment No. 2906.

Mrs. CLINTON. 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 amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a residual ballot performance benchmark)

Beginning on page 8, line 19, strike through page 9, line 3, and insert the following:

(5) ERROR RATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The error rate of the voting system in counting ballots (determined by taking into account only those errors which are attributable to the voting system and not attributable to an act of the voter) shall not exceed the error rate standards established under the voting systems standards issued and maintained by the Director of the Office of Election Administration of the Federal Election Commission (as revised by the Director of such Office under subsection (c)).

(B) RESIDUAL BALLOT PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK.—In addition to the error rate standards described in subparagraph (A), the Director of the Office of Election Administration of the Federal Election Commission shall issue and maintain a uniform benchmark for the residual ballot error rate that jurisdictions may not exceed. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the residual vote error rate shall be equal to the combination of overvotes, spoiled or uncountable votes, and undervotes cast in the contest at the top of the ballot, but excluding an estimate, based upon the best available research, of intentional undervotes. The Director shall base the benchmark issued and maintained under this subparagraph on evidence of good practice in representative jurisdictions.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise to do two things. The first is to thank my colleagues, Senators DODD and MCCONNELL. I thank my colleagues for the extraordinary work they have done in crafting an election reform bill that will significantly improve our Federal election system.

I am very pleased that in this legislation we call for national standards for voting systems. I appreciate greatly the call for national standards for voting systems, provisional voting, and statewide voter registration lists in all voting systems used in Federal elections. I believe these national standards are critically important because the rights of citizens in one State to exercise their constitutional right to vote should not be any greater or lesser than the rights of a citizen in any other State.

In considering and passing this bill, we are also making a statement of our values and, in a direct way, repudiating those who attacked our country on September 11 because of our commit-

ment to a free and democratic system that we would like to see replicated in every nation of the world. But the only way we can demonstrate to the rest of the world that we put our values into practice is if each and every American has faith that our election system is the best and fairest.

I rise to offer an amendment that will provide a greater assurance that the rights of voters to vote and have their votes counted in Federal elections will not vary widely from State to State.

As we know, the bill we are considering requires by 2006 that all voting systems used in Federal elections have an error rate that does not exceed the standards established by the Director of the Office of Election Administration. That refers to the rate that voting machines make mistakes in reading ballots.

This standard is important because it means that by 2006 all voting systems used in Federal elections will have to use technology and equipment that does not result in more than a minimum percentage of votes being discarded.

Yet as important as this standard is, it deals with only one of the two pieces of the problem of discarded ballots because this standard concerns votes uncounted due to mechanical errors of the voting system, but it does not address at all the major problem of residual votes which are overvotes, undervotes, or spoiled votes that are discarded due to unintentional human error.

Residual votes, not mechanical errors, are by far the most common reason why ballots are discarded and not counted and why, therefore, voters who thought they were doing the right thing ended up being disenfranchised.

Over the past four Presidential elections, the total rate of residual vote errors has been slightly more than 2 percent. This translates into more than 2 million voters in these elections not having their votes counted. The percentage of residual votes is even higher in Senate elections.

With respect to last year's Presidential election, the Caltech-MIT voting technology project reports that voting ballot problems led to an estimated 2 million votes never being counted because ballots were ambiguous, spoiled, or unmarked. Though 500,000 of these ballots represented abstentions, the remaining 1.5 million ballots represented votes where the voters actually believed they had recorded a vote for President even though their votes were ultimately discarded.

In addition to the Caltech-MIT study, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found that in some precincts as many as 20 percent or more of the ballots were discarded.

Other researchers and media analysts found the same results, and many of these discarded votes were actually what we call residual votes.

For these reasons, the Election Reform Commission, chaired by our distinguished former Presidents, President Carter and President Ford, the so-called Carter-Ford Commission, recommended unanimously that we focus not just on machine errors in improving our election system, but on these unintentional human errors as well.

The Commission members from both parties from all regions of the country did so because they knew that focusing only on mechanical errors was not good enough; that only by measuring residual votes will we be able to assess effectively whether the voting process as a whole is giving citizens an equal opportunity to have their votes counted.

The bottom line is that there is no dispute that residual votes are a major problem. The question is, What are we going to do about it?

The amendment I have offered provides a fair, reasonable, and effective answer. This amendment calls upon the Office of Election Administration to establish a national performance benchmark for residual votes, measured as the percentage of residual errors at the top of the ballot, excluding an estimate based upon the best available research of intentional undervotes.

Like the other benchmarks in the bill, voting systems used in Federal elections would have to meet it. This amendment mirrors the language already in the bill that calls upon the Office of Election Administration to set a benchmark with respect to mechanical error rates. The amendment, however, puts in the final piece of the puzzle for requiring this benchmark for residual votes as well.

For any who might be concerned that the benchmark is measured by subtracting an estimated number of intentional undervotes, that is not the case.

In considering this particular issue, the Carter-Ford Commission noted there has been considerable progress in determining how often intentional undervotes occur. We can take this data from the National Election Studies, from the Voter News Service, and we can then use it for the determination as to how we consider this remaining problem.

The Caltech/MIT study, for example, said exit polls suggested approximately 30 percent of residual votes, less than 1 percent of all votes, are intentional. Individually and collectively, therefore, we can estimate these intentional undervotes and knock them out and only focus on the unintentional where someone thought they were actually marking the ballot.

I hope when we establish these national standards, we recognize this is an important issue. Yes, we need to take care of those mechanical errors but we also have to take care of the unintentional human errors. We have learned in election after election, not just in 2000 but in many of our elections, that hundreds of thousands of

our fellow Americans have gone to the polls believing they were exercising the most fundamental of their constitutional rights. They cast their ballots and they never knew their ballots were not counted and their voices were never heard.

I hope the Senate will consider this problem and will favorably act upon my amendment so we can, at the end of this process, say clearly and unequivocally to all Americans we have put into place the best possible system we can to ensure every vote truly counts and that our election system matches our values.

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

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

#### AMENDMENTS NOS. 2908 TO 2910, EN BLOC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have three amendments that have been cleared on both sides: one by Senator CHAFEE, one by Senator JUDD GREGG, one by Senator JOHN MCCAIN. I send the three amendments to the desk and ask that they be considered en bloc.

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

The clerk will report the amendments en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes amendments Nos. 2908 to 2910, en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendments be dispensed with.

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

The amendments are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2908

(Purpose: To clarify that States and localities with multi-year contracts are eligible to apply for grants under the Act)

At the end of section 206(b), added the following: "A State or locality that is engaged in a multi-year contract entered into prior to January 1, 2001, is eligible to apply for a grant under section 203 for payments made on or after January 1, 2001, pursuant to that contract."

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2909

(Purpose: To ensure that States that are exempt from the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 continue to remain exempt from such Act)

On page 17, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

(iii) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this subparagraph, if a State is described in section 4(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-2(b)), that State shall remove the names of ineligible voters from the computerized list in accordance with State law.

On page 20, strike lines 13 through 15, and insert the following:

(B) who is—

(i) entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens

Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1 et seq.);

(ii) provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under section 3(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee-1(b)(2)(B)(ii)); or

(iii) entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other Federal law.

On page 21, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(5) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a State that was not required to comply with a provision of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg et seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act to comply with such a provision after such date.

On page 14, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

States described in section 4(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-2(b)) may meet the requirements of this subsection using voter registration procedures established under applicable State law.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2910

On page 10, line 22, strike "Commission" and insert "Commission, in consultation with the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board."

On page 64, line 19, strike "316(a)(2)." and insert "316(a)(2)", except that—

"(1) the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board shall remain responsible under section 223 for the general policies and criteria for the approval of applications submitted under section 222(a); and

"(2) in revising the voting systems standards under section 101(c)(2) the Commission shall consult with the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board."

Mr. DODD. I note the Chafee amendment is offered on behalf of Senator CHAFEE and Senator REED of Rhode Island. The amendment from Senator MCCAIN is offered on behalf of Senator MCCAIN and Senator HARKIN.

We have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 2908 to 2910) were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DODD. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

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

#### APPRECIATION OF FARM BILL STAFF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday we completed action on the farm bill. The bill is a victory for the American farmers and ranchers who will benefit from the improved commodity programs in the bill. It is a victory for families in need who will benefit from broad nutrition programs in the bill. It is a victory for rural communities