

under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask to speak for 5 minutes under the morning business provision under which we are now operating.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Tennessee for his very eloquent speech in regard to the life and contributions of Johnny Cash. I suppose some might wonder why people in the Senate would stand up and choose basically to praise an individual who some might think was a simple country western star. Simple is right. But, perhaps, they would ignore the fact that this was a unique star in the horizon of stars that means a lot to Americans.

The Senator from Tennessee called him "the poet for the working poor." I might call him the minstrel for the working poor.

I came across Johnny Cash when I was in Phoenix, AR trying to be the William Allen White of Arizona with a career in journalism. Up to that point, I had not been a country-and-western aficionado, if you will, or even a fan. Then, in a place called South Phoenix, which is certainly history now, the performers would perform in California, stop in Phoenix and go on their way to Texas. I am trying to think of the various performers who came in there, along with Johnny Cash. He was part of that show. I think it was before Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. I really can't think of other performers. It doesn't make much difference. But people wanted to come and see Johnny Cash. Other performers finished—and the South Phoenix ballroom was not exactly the Metropolitan Opera in terms of demeanor and what went on there. People used to see the shows and then stay and watch the fights.

But anyway, the lights went off and then the spotlight went on. And here was this tall man in black, who said, "Hello. I am Johnny Cash." And the place erupted. He went through the repertoire of his famous hits at that particular time. He was magnetic in his appeal. He had a special appeal for the people who could really identify with what he was singing in terms of their daily life, their pocketbooks, and the challenges they went through.

The second time I had an opportunity to hear him was when he came to Washington at the Merriweather Post Pavilion. The place was packed. At that time, he was married to June Car-

ter. I think that was probably the top act in show business, at least on the western and country side.

The thing I wanted to mention is we had the Bicentennial ceremonies here on The Mall in 1976. The Senator from New Mexico indicated The Mall is sacred ground—until we had our Bicentennial ceremonies. We went through quite a bit of activity in getting the Capitol spruced up. A lot of artwork was redone at that particular time.

Guess who the master of ceremonies was on The Mall celebrating our Nation's 200th anniversary. Johnny Cash. Guess who performed at a Joint Session of Congress with his rendition of Our Flag. I think I have that right. I may have it wrong. But there is a beautiful rendition—a historic rendition—of the Flag. He sang, I believe, a medley of patriotic songs before the Senate and the House.

I thought to myself: Here is someone who came from the Depression, who had a rough time in show business, and then was a great entertainer. And who else would be more appropriate to head up the Bicentennial ceremonies than Johnny Cash?

The third time I had an opportunity to meet him was at the Kennedy Center Honors where he was being honored along with great performers of our day. His health was none too good. But I stood in line with everybody else shaking his hand. I said to him, "I wanted to see the man in black. I saw you in Phoenix way back in 1962. I was very proud of you in 1976 when you headed up the Bicentennial, and it is a real pleasure and a privilege to make your acquaintance as of today."

He was a very down-home man, very humble, and said it was a privilege. He asked my name. We had a very nice conversation. I can't think of any other entertainer who represents American talent better than Johnny Cash.

I have, by the way, I tell the Presiding Officer, about eight albums—not CDs, albums. If we could just find a turntable, we could go back to Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Trio, and later we could "Walk The Line" together.

I yield the floor. 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. 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.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY RUN AMOK

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I brought with me to the floor a picture of a woman named Joan Slote. Joan, as you can see, is a bicyclist, standing there with a bicycle helmet and a bicycling outfit. She is a senior olympian. She is a 74-year-old grandmother of six and a champion cyclist. She rides

about 100 miles a week, and has pedaled her bicycle through 21 countries.

I am showing a picture of Joan Slote on the Senate floor because she is in trouble with the Federal Government. Joan Slote never sought to deceive the U.S. Federal Government. She responded to a Toronto-based adventure catalog for a bicycle trip to Cuba. It intrigued her. It said, incorrectly, in the advertisement that U.S. law does not bar citizens from visiting Cuba as long as they fly there through Canada. So Joan Slote, this grandmother cyclist, joined a cycling trip through Cuba.

When she returned to the United States through Canada, they asked her where she had been. She said she had been in Canada and prior to that had been in Cuba. So she was not attempting to deceive anyone.

Guess what happened to this grandmother? She went from her home on the west coast to Europe on a bicycling trip. While she was gone, she learned her son had a brain tumor. She rushed back, packed some clothes in her place in Oregon, and rushed to her son's side. He died of this brain tumor. She finally got back home and she saw letters from OFAC, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, at the U.S. Department of Treasury. OFAC was upset because Joan Slote had been to Cuba. They told this 74-year-old grandmother the Feds were hot on her trail and that the Feds wanted a \$7,600 fine from her. The Feds wanted \$7,600 dollars from this grandmother because she violated American laws by travelling to Cuba.

We have people down here at the Department of Treasury looking after Joan Slote and people like her.

They fined her \$7,600 because she visited Cuba and spent \$38 there. Since that time, OFAC added penalties and interest until the total was almost \$10,000. Then a few months ago in July, Joan Slote received a collection letter saying she would pay up in 10 days or they would start attaching her Social Security payments. They say, we are slapping you with a big fine; you are obviously a problem for this country.

Let me remind listeners, this is the Office of Foreign Assets Control. This is the office that is supposed to be tracking terrorism in the Department of Treasury. This is the office that ought to be busy full time tracking the movement of terrorist funds across this world. As a matter of fact that is what most of the employees in the Office of Foreign Assets Control do. But not all of them.

Some of them are taken off those duties to make sure Joan Slote does not undermine this country's interests by visiting Cuba. They are chasing a retired schoolteacher riding a bicycle in Cuba trying to slap her with a fine. They cannot find Osama bin Laden but they can sure find this retired grandmother. They are determined to levy a fine on this grandmother.

I learned about that. They wanted to take it out of her Social Security payments if she did not pay the fine. Her

monthly income, by the way, is \$1,200, so she is no match for the Feds.

The Feds are a big, strong, bulky group of people going after this lady. Earning \$1,200 a month income, she is no match for the Feds. She called OFAC and told them she had not been home to get her mail and she had not responded to their notice because her son had brain cancer and died. She asked if they would give her a hearing. Absolutely not, they said. Wouldn't give her a hearing and would not reduce her fine by one cent.

I met Joan at a conference and I got involved in her case. I called OFAC and said: You ought to be embarrassed.

I know there is law against U.S. citizens traveling in Cuba. It is a foolish law that ought to be repealed. The House of Representatives has now, incidentally, voted to prohibit the enforcement of that law. But the fact is this country long ago decided to try to punish Fidel Castro by limiting the ability of the American people to travel. The nuttiest idea I ever heard of. So we end up saying to Joan Slote that you have to pay a fine.

Well, I got involved and said to the OFAC folks: You ought to be ashamed of yourself and you ought to be embarrassed. They agreed to reduce her fine to \$1,900. I don't think she should have paid a cent, but they reduced it to \$1,900. So Joan paid \$1,900 with two checks. She paid the \$1,900. She lives on \$1,200 a month.

Then this morning I received this email from her:

I sent the settlement money in two payments, one in July and paying it all by the end of August. I checked with the bank and the bank said the checks have not been cashed as of a week ago. Two weeks ago I got a letter from a collection agency asking for about \$10,000 and a letter from the Social Security system telling me they will start reducing my Social Security payments in November.

Shame on the Federal Government. Do we have completely and totally incompetent Federal agencies? No. 1, they are chasing old ladies riding bicycles when they ought to be chasing terrorists. She may not like me calling her an old lady, but she is a 74-year-old senior bicyclist. She is proud of what she does. She bicycles in the Olympics. And she has the Federal Government after her. They ought to be chasing terrorists, not retired schoolteachers biking in Canada. What are they thinking? Is there no common sense at all at the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

I had the Secretary of the Treasury in front of a committee a year and a half ago. He got in trouble because he answered the question honestly. I liked him. He was a guy who said what was on his mind. I said: Let me ask you a question. Don't you think if you could use your assets the way you want to use your assets in the Office of Foreign Assets Control, you would pull employees off of tracking little old schoolteachers and others from bicycling in Cuba and instead use all of your muscle and all of your energy and all of your

resources to track terrorism? Don't you think that is where the priorities ought to be?

Well, he did not answer. I asked again. He didn't answer. I asked again and finally he said: Of course. Of course I prefer that be the case. But he got in mighty big trouble, according to the press, with the White House because there is a political correctness about this issue of travel to Cuba and they want the Office of Foreign Assets Control to clamp down on the folks. Go get them.

Let me tell you who they are getting: Joan Slote. She should not have had to pay a penny. Not a penny.

How about Cevin Allen, Washington State. He traveled to Cuba to bury the ashes of his late father, a Pentecostal minister of prerevolutionary Cuba who wanted his ashes buried on the grounds of the former church he had in Cuba. OFAC tried to slap his son with a \$20,000 fine for taking his father's ashes to bury them on the church grounds in Cuba.

He told the hearing that I chaired on this subject that the trip to Cuba let him deal with the pain of losing his parents. But he said the good feelings from giving them the burial he knew they wanted and reuniting with friends from his childhood when his parents were missionaries in Cuba were crumbled when he came home to face hostile officials and the fine for traveling to Cuba illegally.

Then there is Tom Warner who is 77 years old. Tom Warner has not even traveled to Cuba. He is a World War II veteran. He posted on his Web site the schedule for the February 2002 annual meeting of the United States-Cuba Sisters Cities Association in Havana. What happened to him? This 77-year-old World War II veteran heard from OFAC. OFAC accused him of organizing, arranging, promoting, and otherwise facilitating the attendance of persons at a conference in Cuba without a license. Mind you, this World War II veteran never went to Cuba. He simply posted on a Web site the information he had about a Sisters Cities meeting in Cuba. Warner got a letter from OFAC giving him 20 days to tell OFAC everything he knew about the conference and the organizing folks who participated in it. He has since, of course, hired a lawyer.

I just don't understand. We can travel to Communist China. We can travel to Communist Vietnam. We can travel virtually anywhere in the world except for three countries: Cuba, Libya, and, for now, Iraq.

The fact is, other Communist countries, we are told, will move in the right direction through engagement: engage them in trade and travel and that is the way to persuade them to move in the right direction towards greater human rights, towards democracy.

With Cuba, for 40-some years, we have been telling people: Well, you cannot travel there, you cannot trade

there, because somehow that would be giving aid and comfort to the Castro government.

Well, the best way to give aid and comfort to the Castro government is to continue this embargo. The best way to undermine the Castro government is through trade and travel. It is what we do in China. It is what we do in Vietnam. It is what we ought to do with respect to Cuba. But the reason I came to the floor today is to say this poor woman ought not to be chased by the Federal Government. She has done nothing wrong. She made a mistake by responding to an advertisement in a magazine that said what she was going to do on this bicycle trip was not illegal. She did it in good faith and now comes home to have the Federal Government chase her.

What is galling to me is the agency in the Federal Government—the Treasury Department and this little organization called OFAC, which we require to track terrorists—is using their resources to chase Joan Slote. Shame on them.

We are going to try to change the law in the Senate. I am going to offer an amendment to the Treasury appropriations bill that is identical, word for word, with every punctuation mark, that was in the House bill. I think it passed the House by 40 votes. My expectation is, if we have a chance to vote on it, it will pass the Senate as well.

It simply says this travel ban makes no sense. We ought not enforce the travel ban. No one ought to be chasing a retired schoolteacher or a bicyclist or someone who takes their father's ashes back to bury in Cuba.

I don't know. Maybe the folks at Treasury can be just embarrassed into doing the right thing. But it is inexplicable to me that we talk about homeland security, we talk about fighting terrorism, and then we have an agency of the Federal Government that is using its resources to do this.

Yes, I know what the law is. But I also know what the priority is: to use scarce enforcement dollars to track terrorists. Common sense would tell you not to divert those dollars to try to take part of the Social Security payments away from this retired woman because she went on a bicycle trip in Cuba.

That is the kind of heavy-handed Federal Government I do not want to be a part of. I believe we ought to do something legislatively to address that situation, and I intend to do that when we have the right appropriations bill on the floor of the Senate.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, while I am on the floor, I wish to mention that a couple of my colleagues—I believe, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator KENNEDY—will be on the floor later today with an amendment dealing with the issue of nuclear weapons. I want to join