

I am hopeful my colleagues on the other side will pass it without further delay.

To my knowledge, no amendment has been filed tonight. I hope tomorrow morning we can pass the Syria Accountability Act. We can shorten the time to 1 hour. Under the present consent agreement which has been approved before this body, we will move to it for an hour and half at any time the majority leader wishes. We have waited a long time to get to this. I hope we can do it tomorrow.

I hope that also tomorrow—and I was willing to do it tonight, but it has been rejected on two separate occasions—we can pass the Military Construction appropriations bill. I don't understand why we can't do that. We could have this matter on the President's desk in a matter of hours. After it is signed, places such as Nellis Air Force Base and Fallon Naval Air Training Center would be able to start construction projects that are badly needed. Both of those bases are terribly busy because of what is going on in the Middle East and because of the training for our naval airmen and Air Force airmen. I know the people at Nellis badly need this money.

I ask consent that the order entered with respect to H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability Act, be changed to reflect the time for consideration be reduced to 60 minutes; that there be 30 minutes under the control of Senator SPECTER, 15 minutes each for Senators LUGAR and BOXER, or their designees; and at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning the Senate proceed to the measure under limitations provided under the previous order as modified above with the remaining provisions of the order now in order to remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCAIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I would hope that the majority would allow the Senate, before we take our weekend break, to do these two pieces of legislation—the Syria Accountability Act and the military construction conference report. I hope we can do that. These are non-partisan measures. I don't know what advantage any of us have by taking a few minutes and passing them. I hoped we could do military construction in tonight's wrap-up. It is something that needs to be done that no one disputes. No one needs it more than the military of our country.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE ARMED FORCES RELIEF TRUST

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. I rise today to commend an initiative recently launched by the National Association of Broadcasters and its local radio and television station members.

With more than 140,000 military personnel stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world, the resources needed to take care of our troops and their families are strained. As an Air Force reservist, I have seen firsthand the financial and emotional difficulties that many families face when a family member is on an extended deployment.

Of course, the military takes care of its own. But, as the war on terror continues and needs escalate, the military cannot do it alone. To respond to this growing need, the four military aid societies have joined together to create a single umbrella organization: the Armed Forces Relief Trust.

In support of this new relief organization, local commercial radio and television stations are airing radio and television public service announcements, asking viewers and listeners to contribute to the Trust. The over-the-air broadcast medium continues to be the most effective way to rapidly disseminate information to the public. Last year, the four military emergency assistance programs disbursed more than \$109 million in interest-free loans and grants to more than 145,000 individuals and families in need. With the help of America's local radio and television stations, I am convinced that the Trust will be able to assist even more military families.

I applaud the efforts of local broadcasters to support the families of those who defend us every day.

THE CRIMINAL SPAM ACT OF 2003

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in June of this Year, I introduced S. 1293, the Criminal Spam Act, together with my friend Senator HATCH and several of our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee. In September, the committee unanimously voted to report the bill to the floor. Two weeks ago, the Senate adopted portions of the bill as an amendment to S. 877, the CAN SPAM Act. The bill has been cleared from the Democratic cloakroom for weeks.

Unfortunately, this important measure is hung up on the Republican side because of an anonymous "hold" by some Republican Senator.

The Criminal Spam Act targets the most pernicious and unscrupulous spammers—those who use trickery and deception to induce others to relay and view their messages. Ridding America's inboxes of deceptively delivered spam will significantly advance our fight against junk e-mail.

Why would anyone want to prevent passage of this important legislation? It is bipartisan. It is non-controversial. It enjoys broad support from businesses, consumer groups, and civil lib-

erties groups alike. The administration has only good things to say about it, and I know of no individual or organization that opposes it.

The answer must be that someone on the other side of the aisle is playing politics with this bill, holding it up for some reason that has nothing to do with it—or for no reason at all.

We could pass the Criminal Spam Act today, the House could act quickly and we could start prosecuting the worst of the worst spammers without delay. Instead, a single Republican Senator is allowing these individuals to continue to flood the Internet with their unwanted ads.

The Internet is a valuable asset to our Nation, to our economy, and to the lives of Americans. We should act now to secure its continued viability and vitality.

NATIONAL CONSUMER CREDIT REPORTING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 1753, the National Consumer Credit Reporting System Improvement Act of 2003. As we all know, reauthorization of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is a very important issue for the financial services industry and for consumers. When I talk to my friends in this sector, it is always the first thing they ask about. It touches everyone and their money and our national economy. It is critical that we act on it before adjournment. I believe that the Banking Committee under the leadership of Chairman SHELBY has created a fair, bipartisan bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

We have been talking about this issue for several years. We have held a number of hearings on it. We looked it over pretty thoroughly, and I think we have come up with a reasonable approach. Most importantly, we have to act now because this bill is also important to our overall economy.

Last week we had great economic news. Our economy is roaring back and that is good news for everyone. But if we fail to pass this bill, it could end up being a serious speed bump on the road to a better economy. If there is one thing that markets hate, it is uncertainty. They want to know where we are and where we are going. For better or worse, the markets think we are going to pass this bill. They think we are going to outline a stable path for financial institutions when it comes to the sharing of information. Any talk or any sign from Congress that makes the markets think that we aren't going to pass this bill would create a great deal of uncertainty in the financial markets. Now that our economy is really coming to life, that is the last thing we need. If the markets think we are going to let the FCRA lapse, they are going to get very jittery very quickly. I can understand that. This is a sensitive, complicated area. I don't think any of us wants the FCRA to lapse.

We need Federal preemption in this area. I think it would be a mistake to let States and localities all try to impose their own privacy rules. There are trillions of dollars at stake. We have to be very careful. But if we fail to pass this bill, we open a Pandora's box of States and localities writing their own rules, and the markets and financial institutions just are not prepared for that. We can't let that happen. We don't need that uncertainty now. Who knows what would happen.

On a personal note, I am very pleased that the bill contains strong identity theft and privacy protections, including my amendment on Social Security number truncation that will help prevent thieves who go "dumpster diving" or try to steal credit reports from mail boxes. Identity theft is a growing problem in America. The Internet is making it easier for thieves to obtain consumer information. My amendment will help fight this growing menace. Under this bill, consumers can block out their Social Security number on their credit reports. It is just the sort of simple, commonsense approach that will help consumers without burdening business.

I would also like to talk about the amendments that are going to be offered by my colleagues from California. They are based, in large part, on a California bill, SB1. I am sure California has a fine legislature. And I am sure their representatives try their best to represent their California constituents. But I do not think the California legislature represents the people of Kentucky or the other States very well. That is not their job. If we adopt the amendments to be offered by my friends, it would have the effect of imposing California's rules on the rest of the Nation. That is a bad idea that will only lead to the economic uncertainty we have to avoid.

If California wants to try to craft their own rules and work with Federal regulators, I say more power to them—but not if it puts a crimp on the national economy or starts rewriting the rules for the other 49 States. Our credit system is a national system and it needs a national standard. Standards that may work in California or Kentucky may not work for the country as a whole. Usually I am all for taking power away from Washington and sending it back to the States and local government. But on this bill we cannot ignore the fact that credit rules and markets and money are all part of a broader, national economy that requires a unified, Federal approach. To let States undermine that would be a recipe for disaster.

S. 1753 is a fair and balanced bill that sets a fair and balanced standard for our entire Nation. It is bipartisan, it is common sense, and it is a prudent solution to a pressing problem for our financial institutions.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING BENJAMIN AND ALEC WILLIAMS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor Benjamin Richard Williams and Alec David Williams for receiving the Eagle Scout Award. As an Eagle Scout myself, I know first hand the dedication and hard work involved in attaining this prestigious award. These two brothers, from my home State of Idaho, are exceptional individuals who have accomplished much in their young lives. Allow me a moment to tell you about them.

In addition to his rank of Eagle Scout, Ben has served diligently in the Boy Scout organization, most recently as Senior Patrol Leader. He has also been heavily involved in extra-curricular activities at Boise High School. Ben is a cross-country runner and is involved in his school's jazz and marching bands. All of this while keeping a very impressive 3.95 GPA.

Alec is here with us in the Senate today, serving our country as a congressional page. We appreciate his valuable service in this capacity. Alec has served in several capacities in the Boy Scouts, most recently as the assistant senior patrol leader. Alec is also an exceptional student with a 4.0 GPA. Attaining the rank of Eagle Scout is one more accomplishment to add to his already impressive list.

I commend Benjamin and Alec on receiving their Eagle Scout Awards. Through the leadership and service opportunities provided in the Scouting program, Ben and Alec are better prepared to serve their families and America's communities. I wish them continued success in all of their endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE APPROVAL OF THE USE OF \$10,623,873 PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, PUBLIC LAW 108-7, THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2003—PM 55

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United

States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with Division C, District of Columbia Appropriations Act of Public Law 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, I am notifying the Congress of the proposed use of \$10,623,873 provided in Division C under the heading "Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia." This will reimburse the District for the costs of public safety expenses related to security events and responses to terrorist threats.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 6, 2003.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE—
November 5, 2003

The House passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 2898. An act to improve homeland security, public safety, and citizen activated emergency response capabilities through the use of enhanced 911 wireless services, and for other purposes.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2443. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2620. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3214. An act to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3348. An act to reauthorize the ban on undetectable firearms;

H.R. 3349. An act to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2004; and

H.R. 3379. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3210 East 10th Street in Bloomington, Indiana, as the "Francis X. McCloskey Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3365) to amend title 10, United States Code, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the death gratuity payable with respect to deceased members of the