

not only for FEMA and all of the personal loans and grants, the Small Business Administration low-interest loans so people can rebuild their lives as well as their businesses, but also the money that will go to our military bases to repair the devastation that has occurred at the Kennedy Space Center with NASA. All of that is in this money, and we have to be able to rebuild our lives in Florida for the sake of people and for the sake of this country.

There is something FEMA can do, in addition to getting the temporary housing people are impatiently waiting for. FEMA can also address a chronic problem that does not happen just after one hurricane but gets magnified after multiple hurricanes within a 6-week period, and that is the accumulation of debris.

As I traveled through the mobile home park of Bombay Estates, it was because people from the Mormon Church came there over the weekend to clean up that debris and stack it in areas so those people could get back to their lives. The Red Cross, the Salvation Army—all of these private organizations are doing such a tremendous job, and yet FEMA is taking the position that it will not reimburse local governments for picking up debris unless the debris is on public right of way. That defies reality in Florida.

In Florida, we have many huge senior citizen complexes where the roads in them are private roads, and yet they are still citizens, they are still part of the community, and the debris is accumulating, and FEMA says it will not pay for the pickup of that debris.

Who is going to pay for it? That is part of what FEMA's disaster relief is for. Is the local government to pay for it? The little cities and towns cannot afford all of that expense. So what are they going to do? Assess a fee on all of the senior citizens in this huge senior citizen residential complex?

On fixed incomes, the senior citizens cannot afford it. Yet FEMA is taking the position that they will not pay for the pickup of the debris, but it is not a legitimate position.

Listen to what section 206.224 of the Code of Federal Regulations states. It states that FEMA may provide assistance to remove debris from privately owned lands and waters when it is in the public interest.

What is in the public interest? It is in the public interest to eliminate a threat to public health and safety.

How many canals and water reservoirs did I see littered with debris? If that debris is not picked up, it becomes a hazard for all kinds of pestilence, not even to speak of the danger. As I went through some of that debris yesterday, a lot of those carports in the mobile home parks were just twisted and flung by 120-mile-an-hour winds. They have sharp edges by which people can get really hurt.

So I hope we do not have to direct FEMA to do this by putting language in the Department of Homeland Security

funding bill on FEMA's particular funding. We should not have to do that. FEMA has the authority already. It is just an interpretation of the law, and I think this is clearly a case, in the interest of the public safety and welfare, that FEMA should recognize this is not one hurricane but this is four hurricanes within 6 weeks in one State. That is my plea to the Senate, to the House of Representatives, and especially to FEMA.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. How much time does the minority have remaining in morning business?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority has 7 minutes remaining.

LANCE ARMSTRONG, A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I flew to Las Vegas Friday, and on the way out there I read the anniversary edition of *Sports Illustrated*. It had in it what has transpired in the world of athletics during the last 50 years. The thing that struck my eye was *Sports Illustrated* said the most definitive role model during these past 50 years is not the name that one would think, but it is Lance Armstrong, the cyclist. Out of all the athletes, they said Lance Armstrong was the most positive role model of all the athletes in some 50 years. The reason that was important to me is I was going to Las Vegas Friday for an event with Lance Armstrong.

This man has done some tremendous things, and not only athletically. Just a few years ago, he was dying of cancer. Many of his sponsors, when he was sick—in fact, most of them—no longer would support him. They pulled their support and left him for dead because of his advanced cancer.

We all know that Lance Armstrong is in a class by himself as a cyclist, but he represents a growing population of cancer survivors.

In June, the Centers for Disease Control found that the number of cancer survivors in the United States had tripled over the past 30 years, a 300-percent increase. Unfortunately, people in my State have lower rates of cancer survivorship than our neighboring States.

Nevada is home to world-class physicians, but we have lacked a research institution that can provide cutting edge treatments for patients who have been helped by traditional therapies. As a result, many Nevadans have been

forced to travel out of State for cancer care or to simply forego nontraditional treatments.

Just over 2 years ago, a young couple, Jim and Heather Murren, came to Las Vegas. Jim Murren came to work for MGM as one of its top executives, and he was accompanied by his wife, or vice versa, however one wants to state it. Heather Murren was a financial specialist in New York who worked for a large firm on Wall Street and was an important person in her own right. She came to Las Vegas, and discovered there was a need for a world-class cancer research institute in Las Vegas.

It was a vision she had. The Nevada Cancer Institute has taken shape at a breathtaking pace. The institute, which is set to open its doors next year, has already assembled a team of world-class scientists. They have recruited Dr. Nicholas Vogelzang, who had been the director of the University of Chicago's cancer research center, to direct the new Nevada Cancer Institute.

The Nevada Cancer Institute is offering hope to Nevadans and hope that more Nevadans will beat this dread disease and become like Lance Armstrong, a cancer survivor.

I mention this today because Friday evening, Nevadans celebrated the hope of greater cancer survivorship when Lance and the Tour of Hope cyclists rode down the Las Vegas strip. It is not often the Las Vegas strip is closed, but it was closed Friday for a short period of time.

The Tour of Hope is a week-long journey across America by a team of 20 cyclists who have been touched by cancer. Some are survivors. Others are research scientists, advocates and healers.

At the rally in Las Vegas on Friday, the Tour of Hope team members shared their inspiring stories. Lance Armstrong spoke about his experience and his passion for cancer research. He has done tremendous works on behalf of cancer patients. He founded the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which helps individuals living with, through, and beyond cancer. His historic six consecutive Tour de France victories inspired millions of Americans touched by cancer and the Tour of Hope is carrying his message across the country. Every American can help by signing the Cancer Promise, which is a pledge to support the search for a cure by learning about cancer prevention and research.

This weekend I had the opportunity to collect these promises from my fellow Nevadans and send them across the country with the Tour of Hope cyclists. In addition to signing these promises, many people showed their support by wearing these simple, little yellow plastic wristbands Lance had 5 million of these made. They were gone within a couple of weeks. Now over 12 million have been sold and millions more are being manufactured: "Live strong," it says. These are to be worn all of the time.

Someone who closely watched the debate Thursday night between the President and Senator KERRY noted Senator KERRY had one of these on during the debate. These bands give hope—hope that lives can be saved and this dread disease can be beaten.

I am proud of the progress Nevada is making in this fight against cancer, but it is still unfortunate that too many Nevadans don't have access to quality health care. More than one in five working adults in Nevada have no access to health insurance, perhaps the highest rate in the country. Nationally, we know almost 45 million Americans don't have health insurance, an increase of more than 5 million in just the last 4 years alone.

One reason so many Americans are losing their insurance is because health care costs are spiraling. Employers that do not provide insurance for their employees don't do it because they are cheap or they are mean; they do it because they can't afford it. They know if they have employees with health insurance, they are happier employees.

Health insurance premiums have risen by double digits in the last 4 years. Premiums for a family now have reached about \$10,000. Rising premiums have hit businesses and families, also. An average working family now pays nearly \$2,700 out of their own pockets for premiums, in addition to paying deductibles and copayments.

It is not just premiums that are going up. The American Association of Retired Persons recently reported that, during the first part of this year, prescription drug prices rose more than 3.5 times the rate of inflation. The typical senior citizen will pay \$191 more for prescription drugs this year than last year, and seniors are about to get hit with the largest Medicare premium increase in the history of the program. Monthly Medicare premiums will increase by \$11.60 next year.

Today I am hopeful about the gains we are making in the fight against cancer, but I also know we must do more to get health care costs under control. Unfortunately, the President's Medicare bill that passed last year was a huge giveaway to big insurance companies and drug companies. I happen to think the drug companies and the big insurance companies can take care of themselves. We need to look out for working families who have lost their health insurance, families who are struggling with rising premiums and copayments, and senior citizens who are being pounded by the rising costs for prescription drugs.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent that the time run during the quorum call off the time I have left first and then start running off the time of the majority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, may I inquire about the time remaining in the morning business period?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is currently in morning business. The majority has 30 minutes remaining.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, many Americans watched the debate between the President and Senator KERRY last week. It was a huge audience, and I think that is encouraging because this is a very important election. Very important decisions will have to be made by the American voters. As always, the issues they were debating are very critical—foreign policy issues, the war on terrorism, the situation in Iraq.

My thoughts now, as I have thought all year, are that this is a time for America to have a sure and steady hand at the tiller. There are a lot of difficult situations around the world. There are a lot of important decisions that must be made and commitments have been made that must be honored. Of course, one of the greatest commitments of all is the commitment we made to the men and women in uniform—men and women serving all over the world, including Afghanistan and Iraq. We don't need an uncertain trumpet at a time such as this. We don't need to be undermining or questioning the job they are doing.

Let me emphasize that I don't question anybody's integrity on that, and I know everybody supports our troops. But what we say has consequences. We need to be particularly careful when it comes to foreign policy.

There were a few times last week when I wanted the President to jump in and make a challenge or a strong statement. But I know he didn't because the President of the United States has to think about what it would mean if he was critical in a debate like that about the United Nations or of a particular country such as, say, France. He withheld the criticism.

But we do need consistency and credibility as we go forward with the war on terrorism, as we deal with the situation in Afghanistan, and as we move toward elections in Iraq. I believe we are doing the right thing now by going in and taking out some of the insurgents and strongholds in Samarra, and I presume we are going to take some similar actions in other parts of Iraq so the people of Iraq can exercise that great right of freedom, the right to vote.

But the areas where I thought more should have been said are three. First,

with regard to North Korea and other parts of the world, Senator KERRY says we need to have the broadest possible coalition; that we should have a summit; we should have done more at the United Nations; we should have done that, this, or the other. But when it comes to North Korea, we should have bilateral negotiations between the United States and North Korea. That was tried in the last administration. I thought they deserved credit for making a valiant effort. I met with former Secretary of Defense Perry, who negotiated with the North Koreans a couple of times. He talked about what they were trying to do. But the fact is, it didn't work; they were cheating.

Now, the President has been saying let us exercise patience. Let us bring in the Chinese, the South Koreans, the Russians, the Japanese, a coalition, a discussion group of six. That makes sense to me.

Why a broad coalition in other parts of the world, but when it comes to North Korea and a very dangerous situation, we want it to be just between the United States and North Korea, bilateral? Why don't we take advantage of the interests of our friends and neighbors in that region and the Chinese, who certainly have a vested interest in what happens in North Korea? Nobody wants North Korea to have nuclear weapons and the ability to deliver them—certainly not the Chinese, the Japanese, or the South Koreans. They are right there.

I think the President is pursuing the right course when it comes to North Korea.

Another area I have taken an interest in—and I know the Senator in the Chair, the Senator from Nebraska, has looked at this and worked on it and worried about it—and that is this question of nuclear proliferation and what we do about the nuclear weapons and the nuclear materials the Russians have.

There is a program called Nunn-Lugar that is working to try to deal with that problem. Senator KERRY says we are not doing it fast enough; that what we are doing would take 13 years, and he could condense it to 4 years. Well, that may be easy to hope for or to say, but you have to make it happen. There is another party in this deal, and they are called the Russians. They have something to say about proliferation.

Would I like to see us do it faster? Should we perhaps put more money in this area? Yes. But the administration has been working in this area. The funding has gone up, and I think it is very important that we do it in such a way that we can make sure the money is going for what it is supposed to; that the money is not siphoned off into corporations that do not do the job and enrich themselves.

You can only do so much credibly in a specified period of time. You need to think about that. You need to work with the Russians.