

I also announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) is absent attending a funeral.

On this vote, the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) is paired with the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON).

If present and voting, the Senator from New York would vote nay and the Senator from Nevada would vote aye. I therefore withhold my vote.

I further announce that, if present and voting the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) would each vote no.

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 213 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	DeWine	Miller
Allard	Dole	Murkowski
Allen	Domenici	Nickles
Bennett	Enzi	Roberts
Bond	Fitzgerald	Santorum
Breaux	Frist	Sessions
Brownback	Graham (SC)	Shelby
Bunning	Grassley	Smith
Burns	Gregg	Snowe
Campbell	Hagel	Specter
Chafee	Hatch	Stevens
Chambliss	Hutchison	Sununu
Cochran	Inhofe	Talent
Coleman	Kyl	Thomas
Collins	Lott	Voinovich
Cornyn	Lugar	Warner
Craig	McCaIn	
Crapo	McConnell	

NAYS—44

Akaka	Edwards	Levin
Baucus	Ensign	Lieberman
Bayh	Feingold	Lincoln
Bingaman	Feinstein	Mikulski
Boxer	Graham (FL)	Murray
Byrd	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Cantwell	Hollings	Nelson (NE)
Carper	Inouye	Pryor
Conrad	Jeffords	Reed
Corzine	Johnson	Rockefeller
Daschle	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Dayton	Kerry	Schumer
Dodd	Kohl	Stabenow
Dorgan	Landrieu	Wyden
Durbin	Lautenberg	

PRESENT AND GIVING A LIVE PAIR—1

Reid

NOT VOTING—3

Biden Clinton Leahy

The bill (S. 2986) was passed, as follows:

S. 2986

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

Subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$7,384,000,000,000” and inserting “\$8,184,000,000,000”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I was not able to participate in today's debate

and vote on the extension of the national debt limit. I was attending the funeral of a great civil rights leader in Delaware, Jane E. Mitchell. Had I been here to vote, Mr. President, I would have cast a symbolic vote against an extension of the debt limit. Today's fiscal mess, the transformation of historic surpluses into record deficits, is not an accident. It is the inevitable outcome of policies that consistently ignored evidence and experience.

When we launched out on a course of tax cutting, with expanding domestic and international obligations and responsibilities, many of us in Congress argued that we could not afford to do everything, that we needed a fiscal policy that matched our revenues with our expenditures. Some tax cuts, especially for the middle class, were needed, tax cuts that could have revived job growth and aided economic recovery. Instead, we have a policy that calls for permanent tax cuts that overwhelmingly favor those who are already well off. When twice the administration asked us to appropriate funds for our military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, I stood here on the Senate floor and said that we should pay for those obligations with smaller tax cuts for our wealthiest taxpayers, and not just pass the bill on to all our children.

We are here today because that advice was ignored, those hard choices were ducked, and the bill for our decisions will be sent to our children and grandchildren, in the form of the additional debt we will authorize today. It did not have to be this way, Mr. President. In the next Congress, the threat of massive deficits, which have made us increasingly dependent of foreign lenders to stay afloat, will still be with us. My symbolic vote against raising the debt limit would have been a protest of the policies that have brought us to this point, and a demand that we change course.●

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue of importance not only to South Dakota producers

and ranchers, but to producers and ranchers all across America.

The issue involves a program that would not only provide positive benefits for our agricultural producers, but ensure consumer choice in the grocery store aisle and on the dinner table.

There are efforts underway, unfortunately, to gut the mandatory country-of-origin labeling law that was incorporated into the 2002 farm bill, a farm bill signed into law by this President, and which should be supported by this administration. I rise today to express concern that the fiscal year 2005 omnibus appropriations measure may contain provisions which would weaken or replace mandatory country-of-origin labeling with a voluntary country-of-origin labeling program.

As you will recall, last year the Senate overwhelmingly supported a resolution that Senator DASCHLE introduced instructing conferees to strike any language which would delay the implementation of a mandatory labeling program. The omnibus conference recessed hastily, and consequently no opportunity existed to debate and vote on that matter. In any event, the fiscal year 2004 agriculture appropriations bill, the vehicle for the fiscal year 2004 omnibus, contained language delaying country-of-origin labeling by 2 years for all covered commodities with the exception of farm fish and wild fish. This language was adopted by only a small margin in the House. I rise today to urge my colleagues in the Senate to convey their support for this measure and the importance of mandatory country-of-origin labeling.

It is no secret that this administration has voiced its support for resumption of trade of live Canadian cattle, and it is only a matter of time before our producers feel the economic impact of this decision. When USDA opens the floodgates, and if our mandatory labeling program is gutted, consumers will have no way of determining where their meat comes from. And I worry that the Canadian border will reopen before we have resumed trade relations with some of our key export markets. That presents a dangerous situation for our producers, and I fail to see why the administration would continue to cheer large agribusiness while the burden of our faltering export markets is borne by the individuals feeding this great Nation.

Country-of-origin labeling retains support from over 80 percent of American consumers, and recently about 95 consumer and producer groups, representing over 50 million Americans, wrote Congress to express their support for a mandatory food labeling program. They also conveyed their opposition to any effort to turn this program into a voluntary program in the 2005 omnibus appropriations measure. Country-of-origin labeling has overwhelming bipartisan support, and the majority of our trading partners have already implemented a country-of-origin system in their respective countries. It is time to

quit dragging America's feet and join the remainder of the industrialized nations throughout the world that afford their consumers the right to know the origin of the food they feed their families.

I have worked on mandatory country-of-origin labeling for nearly 12 years. My first labeling bill was introduced in 1992, and as the primary author of the origin labeling language incorporated in our existing farm bill, I join Mr. BURNS and other Senate colleagues in introducing a bill on that issue today. I will persist in working to speed up implementation of this program with my colleagues. It is important that this Senate continue its bipartisan support for implementation of this commonsense law.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

RESEARCH REVIEW ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last month we lost a great American, Christopher Reeve. Since a riding accident left him paralyzed from the neck down, Christopher Reeve has been an inspiration to all Americans, particularly to those living with paralysis as a result of spinal cord injury.

In the years following his accident, Christopher Reeve made tremendous progress. He regained sensation and movement in some parts of his body and was able to breathe for periods of time without a ventilator. Watching Christopher Reeve achieve these milestones gave hope to individuals with spinal cord injuries, their families, researchers and just about everyone.

We lost Christopher Reeve, but we cannot lose sight of his dream for a cure. We must do everything we can to ensure that Federal researchers have the tools they need to further advance paralysis research, and to ultimately find a cure.

I am pleased that today we are honoring the legacy of Christopher Reeve by passing the Research Review Act. This legislation includes a provision that will advance the goals of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act.

There is no stronger voice in the Senate for individuals with disabilities than Senator TOM HARKIN. And for the last several years, Senator HARKIN has worked with the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation to pass legislation that would further advance the science needed to promote spinal regeneration and build quality-of-life programs for individuals with paralysis and other mobility impairments.

The Research Review Act supports the intent of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act by directing the National Institutes of Health to draft a report on ways they have encouraged the use of multi-disciplinary research teams to advance treatments, develop new

therapies, and collaborate on clinical trials with respect to spinal cord injury and paralysis research.

The Research Review Act is an important step in the right direction, but we must do everything we can to pass and fund the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act during the next session of Congress.

The Research Review Act also includes important provisions related to inflammatory bowel disease. I am the proud sponsor of legislation in the Senate known as the "IBD Act" which is designed to improve the quality of life for patients suffering from inflammatory bowel disease. I am pleased that 36 Members of the Senate, including Senator COCHRAN, have cosponsored this bipartisan legislation.

Inflammatory bowel disease, which includes both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, is a chronic disorder of the gastrointestinal tract which afflicts approximately 1 million Americans, 100,000 or 10 percent of whom are children under the age of 18. IBD can cause severe abdominal pain, fever, and intestinal bleeding. Complications related to the disease include: Arthritis, osteoporosis, anemia, liver disease, and colon cancer. Inflammatory bowel disease represents a major cause of morbidity from digestive illness, and although it is not fatal, IBD can be devastating.

I am pleased that the Research Review Act contains three important provisions related to inflammatory bowel disease. The first provision directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to report to the Congress on the status of its inflammatory bowel disease epidemiology study. This much needed study is being conducted by CDC through financial support provided by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA). Over the past 2 years, CCFA has provided the CDC with \$750,000 to establish the epidemiology project. I am pleased that the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee has provided \$800,000 for Fiscal Year 2005 to continue this important study.

The second provision of interest to the IBD community directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on the coverage standards of Medicare/Medicaid for the therapies that IBD patients need to manage their disease. If there are gaps in coverage that negatively impact the health and quality of life of IBD patients on Medicare or Medicaid, we need to know about them, and take steps to address the problem.

The bill provides for a GAO study on the challenges that IBD patients encounter when applying for Social Security Disability. This study will include recommendations for improving the application process for IBD patients. This is critical to our effort to ensure that every patient who deserves disability coverage, receives it.

I am pleased to inform my colleagues that this is the first piece of author-

izing legislation to pass the United States Congress that addresses inflammatory bowel disease. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America for their tremendous advocacy in support of this bill and the "IBD Act" in the 108th Congress. Over the past 2 years, tens of thousands of IBD patients have made their voice heard on Capitol Hill. I am pleased that a disease that for so long has been in the shadows of our society is starting to receive much needed attention and support. We would not be here today if it wasn't for the commitment of these patients and their family members.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL SHANE E. KIELION

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Shane Kielion of Omaha, NE, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. Lance Corporal Kielion was killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom on November 15, 2004, in Iraq's Al Anbar Province. He was 23 years old.

Lance Corporal Kielion attended Omaha South High School where he was a leader both on the football field and in the classroom. After graduating in 1999, he briefly attended Peru State College on a football scholarship before joining the U.S. Marine Corps. He was assigned 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA. Lance Corporal Kielion will be remembered as a loyal marine who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Lance Corporal Kielion are currently serving in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Kielion is survived by his parents, Patricia and Roger Kielion; his wife, April, and their newborn son. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. The United States of America is proud of Shane Kielion's service and mourns his loss.

For his service, bravery and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring LCpl Shane Kielion.

LCPL KYLE BURNS, USMC

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to express our Nation's deepest thanks and gratitude to a special young man and his family. During this past recess, I received word that on November 11, 2004, Veteran's Day, Marine LCpl Kyle Burns of Laramie, WY, died in the line of duty while serving his country in the war on terrorism. Lance Corporal Burns was killed while fighting insurgents in the battle for Fallujah, Iraq, west of Baghdad. It was his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Burns was a member of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. He joined the Marine Corps after graduating from