

Connecticut, as you know, contains a number of major highways, a nuclear power facility, ports that are home to a regional depot for the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, shipyards, cargo operations and passenger and auto ferries.

The funding contained within the Conference Report is utterly insufficient to support the actions needed to protect the people of our state, to say nothing of the millions of travelers and tons of truck, train and barge cargo that pass through Connecticut every year.

I am urging you to seek an increase in the funding for Connecticut. We cannot sustain a two-thirds reduction in federal homeland security funding. It is unfair and unwise.

I will be contacting you shortly to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

M. JODI RELL,
Governor.

RELIEF FOR GULF COAST STATES

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I will not take as much time as others have, but I would like to commend my colleague from Louisiana, Senator LANDRIEU, for her Herculean efforts over the last couple of days to try and convince this body to do everything it can to provide the needed relief for thousands of displaced individuals along the Gulf Coast, including, obviously, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and parts of Texas.

I am really stunned, in a sense, by the response we are providing to this situation so far.

On average we provide \$5 billion a week to fund our ongoing efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obviously, this funding is critical to protect our troops and the work they continue to undertake overseas. When the President has been asked how he plans to pay for these ongoing efforts, he says that he plans to pay for them using additional Federal resources that are not taken out of other Federal spending priorities.

And yet when it comes to providing the necessary relief to our own citizens in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas, we are being told by the President that we absolutely have to use existing Federal resources to pay for recovery and relief efforts. We are being told that Federal resources cannot be provided unless we reduce other Federal spending priorities.

I can understand the frustration of the Senator from Louisiana. She goes every week to community after community in her State and still sees the horrible circumstances under which thousands of people are living. Meanwhile, the Senate is about to take another week off. As literally hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens are suffering, we are leaving town instead of working together to provide adequate long-term disaster assistance in areas such as public health, education, housing, transportation and homeland security.

The Senator from Louisiana took the floor over an extended period of time to talk about the importance of providing

this relief: to care for the thousands of displaced children, to assist people who lost their homes, their businesses, their very livelihoods. Nevertheless, we are told by this administration and the leadership in Congress that no adequate assistance can be provided unless we cut vital spending elsewhere.

If we do not have to find offsets for rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan, then why do we have to find offsets to rebuild the Gulf Coast—our own soil? If this catastrophe were to happen in my State of Connecticut or anywhere else, we would all appreciate what our colleague from Louisiana has gone through and express our frustrations in the same way she has.

So I join with Senator LANDRIEU and others who have already spoken. I am also waiting to hear about what offsets we are going to be forced to come up with to pay for the recovery and relief efforts along the Gulf Coast. They will most certainly come from domestic investments such as Medicaid that aid the poor, not from repealing the estate tax or other tax cuts that have aided only the wealthiest of Americans.

I imagine that we will cut spending to services provided under Medicare and Medicaid—services that provide basic health care coverage to the poorest of our citizens who are the most dependent for their health care needs. There is a very sad irony to this. We are going to force the poor to bear the greatest burden on funding recovery and relief efforts along the Gulf Coast. In essence we are going to charge them to pay for this. What kind of logic is that? It is irrational, it is wrong, and we ought to be doing better by the people of our own country.

I am disappointed that this body had to rush out of town and could not spend the additional time necessary to get this right for the people of the Gulf Coast.

So I, again, applaud the Senator from Louisiana. I admire her courage. I certainly admire her tenacity in fighting as hard as she has been for the people of her State.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

IRAQ ELECTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on October 15, one week from tomorrow, the Iraqi people will cast their votes on a new, permanent Iraqi constitution, a social compact, which if ratified, will be unique in the history of the Arab Middle East.

Since the stunning January 30 elections, Iraqi leaders have worked tirelessly to draft this historic document.

Next Saturday, the Iraqi people will have the chance to formally express their support for this historic document.

Throughout the summer, we witnessed the complex and painstaking nature of the constitution drafting process. These negotiations included leaders from all of Iraq's ethnic and religious groups. The product is a result of patience, flexibility, and compromise.

As the President said yesterday in his televised speech, "By any standard or precedent of history, Iraq has made incredible political progress—from tyranny, to liberation, to national elections, to the writing of a constitution, in the space of 2½ years."

Indeed.

And they have made this progress under a hail of constant threats and violence from terrorist enemies within and without their borders.

American service men and women have sacrificed greatly to advance America's interests in Iraq, but many more Iraqis have been killed and injured in the pursuit of a free and democratic Iraq.

The draft permanent constitution lays a solid foundation for a stable and democratic Iraq in the heart of the Middle East. It establishes a true democratic system. The voice of all Iraqis will be heard. Human rights will be protected. The rule of law will be respected. And women will be full and equal participants.

It is critical that Iraqis from all walks of life and all segments of Iraq's diverse population participate in next week's referendum.

It is also important for Iraq's Sunni population to support this document and the democratic system of government that it establishes.

Sunni leaders have expressed strong reservations about several aspects of the constitution in recent weeks. Many will vote no; that is their right.

However, I believe that they also recognize the importance of participating in the referendum. Only through participation and integration into Iraq's new democratic system can Iraq's ethnic and religious groups ensure that their rights are secured and their interests are protected. They learned this hard lesson after avoiding the January vote. They will not make the same mistake again.

When several of my Senate colleagues and I met with Interim President Jalal Talabani last month, I was convinced that the Iraqi people recognize the magnitude of this moment.

And I am confident that when the time comes next week, they will once again show their courage and determination.

The enemy will try to intimidate and threaten them. But the Iraqi people are strong.

Eight and one-half million voters defied the killers last January, and Iraqis continue to volunteer for the Iraqi security forces, ready and willing to defend their new democracy. They do so

despite the fact that security forces are being targeted. They do so because they believe in the vision of a free and democratic Iraq.

I am confident that the Iraqi people will demonstrate this same fortitude in the referendum next Saturday.

And for those who vote against the constitution, they will have the chance to express themselves again in December when the Iraqis go to the polls to elect a permanent government.

In the meantime, the Iraqis also must undertake another momentous task.

On October 19, the Iraqi Special Tribunal will begin the trial of Saddam Hussein and some of his closest associates. The opening portion of the trial will focus on the 1982 killings of 143 Shiites in the village north of Baghdad. Saddam will also face charges of human rights abuses, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

In particular, Saddam Hussein will be required to finally answer for his use of chemical weapons against the civilian Kurdish population of Hallabja in 1988, and the violent suppression of mass uprisings following the Gulf War in 1991.

It will be a riveting sight to see the justice system in the hands of the Iraqi people. And to watch as they face down the man and his minions responsible for so many hideous and barbaric crimes.

I am confident that the Iraqi people will give their former oppressors a fair trial and that the guilty will be brought to justice.

Step by step, the Iraqi people are on the path to democracy. And with each step, the terrorists are dealt a devastating blow, and freedom shows once again its power to inspire and prevail.

The Senate stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the Iraqi people as they fulfill their democratic destiny. They deserve our deepest and most sincere support.

I look forward to watching with hope and admiration as they take to the polling booths once again to secure their future as a free and prosperous nation in the heart of the Middle East.

RETIREMENT OF TIM WINEMAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes today to recognize Tim Wineman for his dedicated and invaluable service to the United States Senate as he prepares to go into retirement.

Tim has served the Senate with great distinction. During his 35 years here, he has worked in various positions within the Senate disbursing office. Tim began as a payroll clerk in 1970 and because of his hard work won numerous promotions. He works today as a financial clerk, one of the best the Secretary's office has been privileged to have. Tim is one of those individuals who come here to serve in the Secretary's office not to debate policy or make political statements, but out of a respect and love for the institution,

serving each and every Member with the utmost professionalism.

Our Senate community is privileged to have individuals with the talent and dedication that Tim Wineman has shown. He is the soul of discretion, always available to answer a question and provide wise counsel, and he loves the Senate with all his heart. This is no surprise, since Tim has been familiar with our Nation's capital and the work of the people that goes on here from his earliest days.

Tim was born and raised in this area. His father worked for DC Transit and his mother, Carolyn, worked for Sears and Roebuck. Tim attended Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, where he met his life-long partner and friend, his wife, Pat. They just celebrated their 36th anniversary in August. They are blessed with two children, Matthew and Lory.

Now that Tim is retiring from the Senate, the inevitable question arises: what will he do with his spare time? I have it on good authority that Tim is planning to get straight down to business. He mentioned that he plans to work on his golf game and spend time traveling with Pat. I have heard that Alaska is one of the top destinations on their list of places to visit. The first 6 months, however, he just wants to spend stress free.

In the Senate, we get so involved in the issues of the day, and as Members our days are long and busy. We often forget to pause for a moment and thank those who keep the trains running on time, and for 35 years Tim Wineman has been one of those loyal conductors.

We thank Timothy S. Wineman for his service, and we wish Tim and his wife, Pat, a happy and content retirement.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of Timothy Wineman, who is retiring after 35 years of dedicated service to the Senate.

There are thousands of employees who work behind the scenes here in the Senate, who make it possible for the Members of this body to discharge the duties of their office. It is rare that these employees get the recognition they deserve.

One of the greatest and longest serving of those unsung heroes has been Tim Wineman, with whom I have had the honor of sharing these halls for the last 25 years. Over that period of time, both my wife Jackie and I have come to rely on his experience and counsel. We are both sad to see him go, but we know as well as anyone that he has certainly earned his retirement.

Tim was hired as a payroll clerk in the disbursing office on October 19, 1970, while my father still served in this Chamber. Six years later, Tim was promoted to payroll supervisor. Four years after that, he became the assistant financial clerk. And, in 1998, he was appointed the Financial Clerk of the United States Senate.

He has fulfilled his duties in all of those roles with efficiency, integrity,

and vision. When Tim began over 30 years ago, the Senate's financial services were still performed manually and recorded in pen and ink, without the aid of computers. Over the last three decades, through various leadership positions, Tim has overseen the technological renovation of the Disbursing Office, as it almost flawlessly shifted to cover a marked increase in staff and services.

The Senate Disbursing Office handles not only the payroll of Senators and staff, but also their retirement funds and life and health insurance. The workload is tremendous. Last year, the Disbursing Office also approved nearly 50,000 expense reimbursement vouchers, administered the oath to over 3,200 new Senate employees, and provided 36 training sessions to new office managers, among countless other responsibilities requiring attentiveness and precision.

Under Tim's leadership, these tasks have been carried out with the utmost professionalism. He has adeptly kept the Senate's financial house in order.

I thank Tim for his years of dedicated service to the Senate. He will be sorely missed. I also want to extend to him and Pat, his wife for as long as he has served the Senate, my best wishes as they begin this new phase in their lives.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached letters from various foreign officials be printed in the RECORD. They have all sent their condolences for the Hurricane Katrina tragedy.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE SENATE OF CANADA,
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE,
Ottawa, Canada, September 2, 2005.

Senator TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

SENATOR STEVENS: On behalf of The Senate of Canada, I join all Canadians in expressing to you, your Senate colleagues, and fellow citizens our sympathy and condolences on your country's great loss.

As we learn more about the wide-spread devastation arising from Hurricane Katrina, it becomes increasingly difficult to fully comprehend the extent of the tragedy. Even so, we extend our thoughts and prayers to all the victims, their families and others hit by this terrible disaster. The numerous telephone calls I have been receiving from Canadians, urging us to be of whatever assistance we can to our American friends, shows how much this tragedy has touched Canadians personally. I assure you we will be supportive in every way we can, and are determined to work together to help both immediately and over the long term.

I wish you great strength both now and in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

DAN HAYS.