

where we will be starting to find out what is up there in terms of producing oil for the United States. That bill was a big achievement, \$36 billion in deficit reduction. I guarantee that could not have been done without the help of the majority leader. So we got that done also with his very exceptional attention, his enlightened approach to getting people together. We barely did that, and without his help it would not have happened.

Finally, literally scores of small bills that are part of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee have passed the Senate within the last 2 days, for various things around the country. We thank him for getting that done. Yesterday, we passed big legislation and who would have thought 6 weeks ago we could pass it. It is the tax provisions of the Budget Act. We all know that that was hard. That extended the alternative minimum tax so it affects far less Americans in a negative way on the amount they owe to the Government. It extended research and development tax credits for American business so they can continue to invest in research. That whole bill had many items in it that are good for America's future. We got it passed. There are some things in it, obviously, that I do not like, and I hope some of those are not continued, because I think some of them are negative to the production of oil in the future, but overall, by an overwhelming vote, we passed a tax measure that moves us ahead. That was the strategy, for all of that was worked out with the help of our leader and the help of other distinguished Senators, including the chairman and ranking member of that committee.

I mentioned the Energy Policy Act, but let me back up to some other things people take for granted. They say, "So what?" We know our Founding Fathers said, with reference to bankruptcy in our country, the U.S. Government would have exclusive authority. For years we know the bankruptcy law of the Nation needed reform. How many times have we had bankruptcy reform on the floor only to see it fail? This year it finally passed. It will make those who file for bankruptcy slightly more responsible. That is, after they are finished, if they can by way of their job pay a small portion of what they owed, they will. That is all subject to criteria which the judges will administer so we are sure we are asking only those who can afford it to pay some. Finally, it was passed.

I say to the Senate that was a great credit to all of the Senate, but also to the distinguished majority leader for pushing, for exercising the dedication, and most of all, there is a certain steadfastness about this leader. He doesn't give up. He says what he is going to do. He stays right on it, and this is another example.

In addition, we have had the issue of excessive litigation. It still hangs over us like something we cannot quite fathom, but it is rampant. We were

told the other day that American companies spend more on litigation than they do on research when you add it all up. That is a rather startling thing. This bill we passed will not fix that. Hopefully, sometime we will address it even more broadly. But we did pass a class action reform piece of legislation. We had only one part of that pass about 8 years ago. But this one makes it more difficult to abuse the class action litigation part of the Federal jurisdiction, where we use our Federal courts to accomplish class action suits. That is a great feather in the hat of the Senate because it has taken so long to get there. For that, we have to say to our majority leader: Thank you for your leadership. It is terrific.

The highway bill—let's leave aside the pieces of the highway bill. Let's talk about the overall funding of the highway system of America by the gasoline tax imposed on our citizens. That was tied up. It was supposed to have been passed 3 years ago. It got passed after that period of time. I think the absolute commitment it would get done, and the power of a majority leader's office, got us there. That is very important.

The Senate has passed all of its appropriation bills. It looks as though we may have been able to avoid an omnibus appropriation bill—or we are going to. Let's hope so. If we do, that will be a very big credit. But at least we are on the way. We have not gotten them all passed in both Houses, but they have all cleared this institution, which is a credit at this time of year. We don't do that very often. So that is another thing we can say that demonstrates we have had good leadership, good direction, and good pressure, the kind of positive pressure the Republican leader brings.

I am going to wrap up by talking about judicial appointments. I would be remiss if I did not mention that the United States of America has a new Chief Justice. It is pretty fair to say that the extraordinary patience and persistence of the majority leader got us to this place. The country is pleased with it. That is obvious. While they do not know everything about these nominees, they learn about our Supreme Court nominees because there is much openness. This man is ultimately a credit to the President for nominating him, the Senate for finally doing what they should, and to our majority leader for pushing it as he did.

Everybody has to acknowledge there are three or four things we must get done. They, too, are being looked at with the precision and the dedication and stick-to-it-iveness of our leader. They are right there on the horizon for next year.

I understand the asbestos quagmire is something people wouldn't think is big enough to be listed among the most important pieces of pending legislation. Let me say there is no question it is. Asbestos liability, for better or for worse, the reality of it, brings to the

American economic system a chance, an opportunity, a probability of real job loss, fantastic economic degradation, and it must be resolved.

The leader has played a big role. Two Senators have been working on it on the majority side for years. Senator SPECTER is very close, with the help of our majority leader, to getting a package that can be bipartisan. That is next.

We know broad immigration reform is right up on the screen. That is very difficult. I say, and predict, since the majority leader says it is going to get done this coming year, I believe those who have been waiting are going to be able to say it will be done. I believe so.

Obviously, much more must be done. Other things we have passed are not very publicly known yet, and should be. I can't do much about it. But essentially, a bill on health technology passed last night without much ado. I say it is a giant step.

I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. It is a giant step in the modernization of the delivery system, which will save money. I won't take much time, except to say the majority leader had a lot to do with that.

I failed to mention that while all of this was going on, that I mentioned the Senate passed an important bill, the free trade agreement, the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Who would have thought 6 months ago that this, too, would be in this litany of successes? But it is.

All in all, in spite of all the noise, in spite of all the bickering, in spite of everything that seems to be moving toward polarization and politicization in the Senate, we did get a lot done. I particularly think much of that is attributable to the distinguished majority leader, Senator BILL FRIST. I want to again indicate to him, from this Senator, my great appreciation for his work and my admiration for how he does that.

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 307, the adjournment resolution, provided that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 307) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 307

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, November 18, 2005, or Saturday, November 19, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2005, or until

the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, November 18, 2005, through Wednesday, November 23, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 12, 2005, or Tuesday, December 13, 2005, or until such other time on either of those days, as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

PAKISTAN'S RECOVERY FROM EARTHQUAKES

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, it has been nearly 6 weeks since Pakistan was devastated by one of the most powerful and deadly earthquakes in modern times. More than 140,000 people were killed or injured in the disaster. The earthquake left 3 million people homeless; hundreds of thousands of children were left without schools. More than a million jobs were wiped out.

I have come to the floor this afternoon to remind my colleagues that as we are prepared to leave town to spend the holidays with our families, to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving meal with turkey and all the trimmings, as we sit around our dining tables and warm houses with family and friends close by, and we give thanks for all our blessings, let's also pause and remember those halfway around the world who will not even have enough to eat that day, will not have a warm house, and who are facing a winter ahead of cold and deprivation. These are the people of Pakistan, one of our most important strategic allies in Asia, especially in the war against terrorism.

There are many difficult months and years ahead for the Pakistani people and the immediate danger is that the winter snows will now soon make relief efforts in Kashmir difficult and in some places all but impossible, even by helicopter. Americans can be very proud of the role our Armed Forces have played in relief operations in the earthquake zone. Immediately after the disaster struck, the United States offered Pakistan \$156 million in aid. We deployed 950 soldiers as well as 24 helicopters. As I speak, a U.S. Army mobile surgical hospital is operating in Muzaffarabad, providing medical care to thousands of quake victims.

To give our colleagues and viewers watching on C-SPAN a better idea of

the devastation in Pakistan, I share several photographs taken by a former member of my staff, Mr. Sam Afridi, who now works for the International Labor Organization in Geneva. Earlier this month he visited some of the most hard-hit areas, including Muzaffarabad, and Balakot. These pictures speak for themselves.

Here is Balakot police station with hardly a stone standing on top of another stone.

Here is another—devastation in the local neighborhood. As you can see, the resilience of the people—they are already setting up their fruit and vegetable stands to help out one another.

This is another indication of the devastation. Here you can see the U.S. Army Chinooks flying overhead in this picture.

Here is a picture of the Hizwan public high school. The earthquake killed 50 students, including the principal's son. You see all the clothes and the backpacks still left there.

Here is a project Mr. Afridi was involved in, the International Labor Organization Emergency Employment. They are hiring people to clean up the debris and move the debris out of the roads. They are working to clean up the devastation.

Here is a young child caught in the rubble in a full body cast. We hope he is going to be all right, but the child may be disabled for the rest of his life.

Here is a young boy, showing the crutches and the fact that, while we hope he can walk again, we don't know if he will ever walk again.

These are some of the images from a country that has been a great friend of ours and a great ally of ours for a long time. Even back during all of the years of the Cold War, Pakistan we could always reply on—always. They have fought beside us, side by side, in every war we have had, from the Korean war on.

We have done some things, as I mentioned, but we must do more. The Washington Post editorial pointed out this morning that, after the Indian Ocean tsunami that killed 200,000 people, the United States sent nearly \$1 billion in government aid, 16,000 soldiers, 57 helicopters, 42 aircraft, and 25 ships—\$1 billion. Thus far we have offered Pakistan \$156 million.

We sent 16,000 soldiers after the tsunami. In Pakistan we deployed 950. After the tsunami, 57 helicopters, Pakistan 24.

While I am sure that aid is welcomed, what I am trying to point out is the devastation here was every bit as devastating; there were 140,000 Pakistanis killed in the earthquake.

Half that many are now homeless and facing a desperate winter without even as much as a tent.

The assistance we have offered Pakistan—one of our best friends and long-time allies, a crucial ally in our war on terror has been way too modest.

I ask unanimous consent to have the editorial from this morning's Washington Post printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 18, 2005]

WINTER IN KASHMIR

It takes advanced seismographs to anticipate earthquakes and computerized weather models to predict hurricanes. It doesn't take sophisticated technology to predict that leaving thousands without shelter in the freezing Himalayas will be disastrous. Unfortunately, however, predictability is not a predictor of action. With perhaps two weeks to go before snows close down the relief efforts that followed the Kashmir earthquake, it's not clear that enough has been done to avert a horrific secondary disaster.

Last month's earthquake caused an initial death toll of at least 74,000 and left perhaps 3 million people homeless. But so far only about 340,000 tents have been distributed. Doctors are trying to immunize 1.2 million children put at risk by bad shelter, diet and sanitation. But the immunization drive has only half the \$8 million that it needs. Relief teams are trying to position stocks of food in remote villages before the snows come. But the food lift got underway belatedly, although donors led by the United States have provided helicopters.

As The Post's John Lancaster described it Sunday, the contrast with the Indian Ocean tsunami is distressing. After the tsunami, the United States sent nearly \$1 billion in government aid, 16,000 soldiers, 57 helicopters, 42 other aircraft and 25 ships. After the Kashmir quake, the United States has offered Pakistan \$156 million in aid, including military equipment; deployed 950 soldiers; and sent 24 helicopters. Aid that's available for immediate relief needs has been especially slow in coming. The United Nations has appealed for \$550 million in emergency aid, but donors have pledged only \$159 million.

The tsunami triggered a tsunami of generosity because it hit during the holiday season and because Western tourists were affected. But the logistics of getting relief into the Himalayas are more daunting; the weather is more punishing. While no deaths were linked to disease and hunger following the tsunami, the risk of an after-disaster in Kashmir is real. Add in Pakistan's two-headed role as an ally in the war on terrorism and an incubator of terrorists, and the case for scoring a combined humanitarian-foreign policy success by delivering more relief faster should be obvious. President Bush has sent Karen Hughes, his chief of public diplomacy, to Pakistan. But sending another fleet of helicopters would be even more helpful.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, as the editorial points out, we have a big stake in delivering much more generous relief to Pakistan. Largely because of the war in Iraq, America's standing in the Muslim world has fallen dramatically in recent years.

According to a recent Pew Center poll, only 22 percent of Pakistanis expressed a favorable view of the American people.

So clearly the aftermath of the earthquake is a chance for us to put our best foot forward, demonstrating our compassion, generosity, our friendship for the Pakistani people.

By reaching out to them in their hour of need, we can show the people of Pakistan that we see their country as more than a base for operations against terrorists.