

EXTENSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time for morning business has expired as of 3 o'clock. The Senator from Louisiana would need to get unanimous consent if she wishes to speak in morning business.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I see the Senator from Mississippi is in the Chamber. I do not want to interrupt any scheduled business. I was scheduled to speak in morning business. I can take 5 minutes later, after the Senator from Mississippi is finished, if he would like to proceed. I do not mind waiting.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it is my understanding the Senate was to return to the consideration of H.R. 2862, the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill at 3 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the previous order. It would require unanimous consent to allow morning business to continue beyond 3 o'clock.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I do not want to object to the Senator proceeding to discuss whatever she wants to discuss. I am happy for her to take whatever time she needs to talk about this issue that is of great concern to me, as well as to her.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Mississippi. I ask unanimous consent for 5 minutes, and then we could proceed to the bill.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I have no objection to the Senator having 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes in morning business.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Presiding Officer.

HURRICANE KATRINA

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today is day 15 of Hurricane Katrina, which has devastated the southeastern part of Louisiana and parts of Mississippi and some parts of Alabama and other States. I have come to the floor, just for a few minutes, to give a few brief remarks—some on a positive note as to some positive things that are taking place, and then some which are descriptive detail as Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, begin to build ideas for the rebuilding of this great region.

First, let me say how pleased I am that a group of Senators will be coming down to the region on Friday. Details of that trip will be announced, but Senators from Mississippi and Louisiana have suggested that some of our colleagues come down and see firsthand the devastation. Not wanting to use assets that were being required for search and rescue, now that phase is almost completed, and it is appropriate for

Senators to come down. I understand Senator REID and Senator FRIST are organizing that trip with some of the Senators here. Senator VITTER and I and others look forward to getting them down on the ground to show them the breadth of the devastation.

One point on that: This is a picture of New Orleans that was done by the New York Times. I thought it was extremely helpful, and I would like to take a moment of my short time on the floor to show this picture in a larger view.

We understand the city of New Orleans has been particularly hard hit, not only by the hurricane but the subsequent breaches of the levees that put most of the city under 10 feet of water for 5 days, 6 days. Even going into actually today, the 15th day of this disaster, there is still water in the city, which is being pumped out now that the levees have been fixed. But the water is still not completely gone.

In addition, in the picture you can see Jefferson Parish. I am going to try to provide an update of that tomorrow. Over here is St. Bernard Parish. Again, I am going to try to provide an update. On this side of the lake is St. Tammany Parish, and I will try to get to that in another day or so.

But as Senators come down to view this whole region—not just New Orleans but an area of 90,000 square miles, the size of Great Britain, stretching from the Gulf Coast halfway through Louisiana—one thing to note about New Orleans that is still not quite understood is this river ridge was the high part of the original city. As you know, before we had concrete highways, the highways we built this Nation on were our rivers. So this city, being one of the oldest in the Nation, was built on this river.

Amazingly and thankfully, the areas close to the river are not underwater, which is this whole ridge. The French Quarter has stayed pretty much high and dry, even the Lower Garden District. Some of the poorer areas along Tchoupitoulas Street are, thank God, out of the water all along the river ridge. The west bank has been spared where we want to build our Federal city complex. We now know it is a good place because it is a highland area and a good place to build.

But this entire city—eastern New Orleans, which is a middle-income neighborhood of White and Black citizens, as well as some poor, very poor; and the Lower Ninth Ward—this is where the Lower Ninth Ward is—Gentilly, which is a middle-income neighborhood of Black and White citizens; the Bywater neighborhood; Mid-City; Lakeview, which is predominantly White but very integrated in some parts and very high income—is completely underwater. Then, of course, there is the midpart of the city, which is low.

So as our Senators come in, they will literally see what looks like Noah's Ark, looks like something of Biblical proportions. Maybe the water will have

gone down by Friday. They are pumping it out quite fast. But just to get some sense, the entire city—poor areas and wealthy areas—is underwater, as well as the east bank of Jefferson. St. Bernard was still completely underwater the last time I flew over as well.

So our work is complicated by having banks and schools not functioning. Shown in this picture, in each one of these blocks—I know I only have 1 minute left—these are schools, these green dots. All of these schools have 10 feet of water in them, every single green dot, except for the ones along the ridge. These are our courts. Most of our courts are not able to function, city or Federal courts.

Our police stations are underwater, which is why some of our police were not able to function as well as they would under normal circumstances. But I am pleased to report, after hearing from Chief Compass today, not one commander of the New Orleans police force left his post, even though 80 percent of them have lost their homes. Some of them have lost their families. As the President said himself, first responders have been victims themselves.

So I thought I would present that today, to say thank you to the Senators for organizing the trip. I know the Finance Committee is going to announce in just a few minutes some tax relief opportunities that Senator GRASSLEY and Senator BAUCUS have worked out. I have worked with them. Senator VITTER and others have worked to put that together. We are very pleased more help is on the way.

Mr. President, I appreciate Senator COCHRAN giving me the opportunity to speak for a few minutes about those points. I will try to get to the floor sometime tomorrow for the same reason.

Thank you, Mr. President.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THUNE). Morning business is closed.

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
SCIENCE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF
STATE, JUSTICE, AND COM-
MERCE, AND RELATED AGEN-
CIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 3 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2862, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Lincoln amendment No. 1652, to provide for temporary Medicaid disaster relief for survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

Dayton amendment No. 1654, to increase funding for Justice Assistance Grants.

Biden amendment No. 1661, to provide emergency funding for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Sarbanes amendment No. 1662, to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina with finding new housing.

Dorgan amendment No. 1665, to prohibit weakening any law that provides safeguards from unfair foreign trade practices.

Sununu amendment No. 1669, to increase funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Southwest Border Prosecutors Initiative, and transitional housing for women subjected to domestic violence.

Lieberman amendment No. 1678, to provide financial relief for individuals and entities affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased the Senate is now able to return to the consideration of H.R. 2862, the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill.

This is the third day of consideration of this important bill. Subcommittee Chairman SHELBY and the distinguished Senator from Maryland, Ms. MIKULSKI, have made good progress in the handling of this bill. The bill reported by the committee will assure the funding of many programs and activities of the Federal Government that are under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee.

The allocation we made to this subcommittee enabled us to restore funding for State and local law enforcement grants, as well as have increased funding for programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Because this bill is now at the upper limit of the subcommittee's allocation, any amendments adopted to the bill will require reductions below the level of funding in other programs.

Now is the time for Senators to come to the floor to discuss the bill or offer amendments. It is my understanding from the leader that any amendments requiring a rollcall vote will be voted on tomorrow. It is my hope we can complete action on this bill tomorrow. The end of the fiscal year is near. We have the responsibility to send this bill to conference as soon as we can.

To remind Senators of the importance of completing action on this bill, this committee is one of those committees that was newly created after the reorganization of the Appropriations Committee that was begun in the House of Representatives. We created this committee to manage the funding for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and a number of independent agencies and commissions, including the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Federal Communications Commission.

So all of the activities and programs and work of those agencies and departments are contained in this subcommittee's bill. It touches a wide

range of interests and concerns, and it is very important for us to complete this bill as soon as we can so these agencies and departments can make their plans for activities that will be funded in this bill at the beginning of the next fiscal year. That next fiscal year starts October 1.

In September of every year, a lot of pressure is put on the appropriations process. In order for us to discharge our responsibility with the administration, sharing with the administration decisions about the emphasis that ought to be placed on programs and activities, we have an obligation to do our work and to do it in a timely fashion. That is why I come to the floor today with a sense of some urgency. I hope to communicate that to all of our colleagues in the Senate.

The House has completed action on most of its bills, and they are awaiting conference with the Senate to work out any differences or disagreements that we may have with the House on the appropriate levels of funding or the categories of interest in terms of their priorities over others in the Federal Government.

This is a day when any votes that are going to occur will occur late in the day. I understand we have a vote in the Senate at 6:30 this evening. So I hope Senators will undertake to come and present us with any suggestions they may have about changes in this bill or any disagreements in the policy reflected in the appropriations process in this bill so we can debate them and discuss them and make changes, if that is the will of the Senate, and then have an opportunity to negotiate those changes on behalf of the Senate with our colleagues from the other body.

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

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be laid aside.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1671

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1671 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. MURRAY proposes an amendment numbered 1671.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To make available, from amounts otherwise available for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, \$906,200,000 for aeronautics research and development programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

On page 170, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 304. Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION", \$906,200,000 shall be available for aeronautics research and development programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to join with Senators ALLEN, MURRAY, WARNER, and VOINOVICH in an effort to maintain our Nation's commitment to vital aeronautics research. We are offering this amendment to restore the aeronautics research & development program to last year's level of \$906 million.

For decades, NASA has conducted a wide array of aeronautics research programs that have helped ensure our economic and military security and revolutionize the way we travel. NASA's work in aeronautics has captured the spirit of the Wright Brothers, spawning generation after generation of progress. The amendment before us will help make certain that progress continues in the coming fiscal year.

The impact of NASA's work is widespread. The U.S. aviation industry supports over 11 million jobs and contributes \$1 trillion in economic activity. Our airlines carry 750 million passengers per year, with that number expected to grow to a billion within 15 years. We ship 52 percent of our exports by air, and in fact, the aviation industry contributes more to the U.S. balance of trade than any other domestic manufacturing industry.

Yet unfortunately, we are at grave risk of losing the staff, facilities, and expertise necessary to continue NASA's aeronautics programs. We are at risk of essentially allowing the first "A" in NASA—the one that stands for aeronautics—to die over the next several years. We are at risk and we better pay attention.

The bill we have before us now is a good bill, and I want to congratulate Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member MIKULSKI on their hard work in meeting so many needs with a very tough and tight budget allocation. One thing the bill does not include, however, is a specific reference to aeronautics funding.

Nonetheless, we know of NASA's plans for aeronautics from its fiscal year 2006 budget request. We know that the agency intends to reduce overall aeronautics funding by \$54 million from the previous year, a cut of over \$200 million from 2004. In fact, the 2006 Budget shows aeronautics programs facing a nearly one-third cut in the next 5 years for aeronautics. That is simply not acceptable.

What will the practical consequences of these cuts be? The cuts mean that subsonic and hypersonic research will

be terminated. This is the research that focuses on designing stronger airframes and better engines, technologies that with just a little work can be taken from the lab and applied directly to aircraft, whether commercial or military. As a result, U.S. aerospace producers will lack access to solid pre-competitive research, while competitors abroad benefit from well financed efforts, such as the European Union's "Vision 2020" program.

Second, many of the facilities necessary to design and test new aeronautics technologies will be closed as a result of budget shortfalls. Wind tunnels and propulsion test facilities are used by Government, academia, and industry—often on a pay-for-use basis—and require minimal funding to maintain.

A recent RAND National Defense Research Institute study determined that over 84 percent of these NASA facilities serve strategic national needs, and that the success of the U.S. aerospace industry relies on NASA's workforce and test facility infrastructure.

So, these proposed aeronautics cuts are a double threat to the U.S. aviation industry: On the one hand, they get NASA out of the business of key aeronautics research areas, and on the other, they will lead to the closure of the very facilities industry and academia would need to replace that research. The cuts undermine our national defense by decimating cross-cutting technologies used by the Department of Defense. The cuts will force massive layoffs among NASA's best and brightest engineers, and will also impact the scores of Americans working for private sector aerospace companies. These cuts are simply unacceptable.

We need to step back and re-evaluate where we are with aeronautics research, where we want to be in 5, 10, 15 years, and make a commitment to do what it takes to get us there. A National Institute of Aerospace, NIA, study commissioned by Congress and unveiled earlier this year shows a need for vastly increased investment within NASA aeronautics programs. Our amendment does not reach the levels recommended by the NIA report, but it does move us in the right direction, the same direction that the House of Representatives has taken in its version of this bill.

Our amendment follows directly from budget language adopted by the Senate this year calling for an adequate aeronautics investment. We do not cut space exploration programs to make this increase. This is a clean, deficit-neutral amendment that will help ensure our national competitiveness in civil and military aerospace, and it deserves the Senate's support.

I will be back on the floor later to talk more about this amendment, as my other colleagues will, but at this point I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DEWINE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. CLINTON. I ask unanimous consent the pending amendments be set aside.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1660

(Purpose: To establish a congressional commission to examine the Federal, State, and local response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Region of the United States especially in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and other areas impacted in the aftermath and make immediate corrective measures to improve such responses in the future)

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I call up Senate amendment No. 1660, an amendment establishing an independent Katrina commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mrs. CLINTON], for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. REED, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. MIKULSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 1660.

Mrs. CLINTON. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of Thursday, September 8, 2005 under "Text of Amendments.")

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I hope we will be able to address this important matter. I believe it is essential for the people who have been directly affected along the Gulf Coast, and really for all Americans, that we have an independent commission consisting of people who have no direct involvement in either the administration or congressional activities, similar to what we had with the 9/11 Commission that I believe discharged its responsibility to the American people with such a high degree of civic-mindedness and public citizenship.

When I was in Houston last Monday a week ago, I met with a number of the people who had been evacuated out of New Orleans and the surrounding parishes. They kept asking me questions I certainly could not answer: What happened to the buses that were supposed to pick them up and take them out? Why wasn't there adequate security at the Superdome or the convention center? How come helicopters were flying overhead and never coming to pick them up?

This morning I heard on the radio an interview with a gentleman who is the

president of one of the parishes surrounding New Orleans. I believe his name is "Junior" Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez said he couldn't get any help at all. He kept trying to get help and he kept waiting for help and nothing happened.

This, as we know now, was a catastrophe of almost Biblical proportions for the people who suffered it: people who lost their homes; people who were driven from their homes; the people who, most tragically, lost loved ones. Many are still searching for members of their family whom they have not been able to find since they got on a bus or left a home and waded through water.

I hope we will address this. I believe it is a matter that needs to be taken out of politics as usual. I personally don't want members of the administration whose primary obligation is to the people who have been directly affected, who need to be directing and managing the relief efforts beginning the rebuilding process, being diverted from doing so. I respectfully suggest the President's idea of investigating himself is not an adequate recommendation.

Similarly, I do not believe Congress should be diverted. We have committees already established and their job is to assess and make recommendations with respect to all of the matters pertaining to homeland security, not only the potential of terrorist attacks but also natural disasters. Therefore, I do believe in an investigation modeled on the 9/11 Commission where the President—as in my legislation—appoints the Chair. He can appoint whomever he wishes. He certainly made an excellent choice when he appointed former Governor of New Jersey Tom Kean. Then the Democratic and Republican leaders appoint the other members, to have a 10-member Commission with the President and his party obviously having an advantage, as is appropriate under the circumstances, but appointing people for whom there is universal respect and people who can set aside everything, people who are willing to delve into this and ask the hard questions about what happened at all levels of government, so we can get answers.

I think the people who have been evacuated, the people who have lost loved ones, the people who suffered deserve answers. But it is not just an exercise in looking backward. I think it is essential that we look forward. What the 9/11 Commission did was help focus our attention on what we should be doing, how we should be proceeding to be ready, prepared in the face of the ongoing threats from the terrorists.

Today we heard about an al-Qaida operative—we think it is some disaffected American who has gone off and joined al-Qaida—who issued the threat that specifically named Los Angeles. We need to be sure we are totally prepared. We have learned some things, but you can't learn enough unless you are honest enough and out of denial in order to

conduct a thorough investigation and let the chips fall where they may. Let's find answers. I hope we will have an opportunity to vote on this amendment. I invite my friends and colleagues from the other side of the aisle to join with us to support this independent Katrina commission and to let us get about the business, on a very short timetable, of getting answers we can all then implement.

I marked the fourth commemoration of what happened to New York on 9/11. I spent yesterday, as I have in past years, with the victims, with the survivors, with family members, with members of the police and fire departments and emergency workers. I could not be more proud to represent such extraordinary, heroic people. But, in speaking especially to our first responder community, they were shaken by this. We needed Federal help. We did a heck of a job. We had the greatest police force and fire department—I would say in the world, with not just pride but with a factual basis. We did a great job, but we needed help and we got help. But now, 4 years later, we are wondering whether that help would be there if something were to happen to us. No city, no State should wonder that.

I think it is a boost of confidence for people to know we are moving as best we can to understand it, but we are unafraid to face whatever the facts might be. That is why we need an independent commission constituted as soon as possible, given the resources to do its work, and asked to report in as short a timeframe as possible.

I appreciate the opportunity to call up this amendment and I hope there will be an opportunity to address it and that we will have a strong vote on both sides of the aisle to proceed with this independent commission as soon as possible.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, the pending business is the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations. As the Presiding Officer knows, I am the ranking member. So our colleagues know, there are about 20 outstanding amendments. We are busy clearing those—Senator SHELBY is on his way to the Senate—that Senator SHELBY and I could agree to, so when we do rollcall votes, we hope to have those reduced to a minimum, or at least a reasonable number. We will also be awaiting direction from the leadership, Senator FRIST and Senator REID, as to how we will proceed tomorrow on rollcall votes. We believe we have some that will be ready tomorrow to move this very important bill expeditiously.

For those who might not know, this new subcommittee handles all the Commerce funding, it handles the funding for agencies such as NOAA, which was so great in telling Americans about the hurricane. It also has a variety of provisions that would be very helpful to Katrina victims, including small business disaster loans that are available not only to business but particularly small business, as well as residential homeowners, up to \$200,000, EDA money, to help local communities rebuild, particularly infrastructure.

While we are mesmerized by the tragedy in New Orleans, we cannot forget Mississippi and Alabama and their needs for roads and other infrastructure projects, including water supply.

The chairman of the subcommittee, Senator SHELBY, of course, of Alabama, and I want to move the bill. We understand our leadership, Senator FRIST, is not going to have rollcall votes during the important Roberts hearings, so we will work with him to see how to do it. One of the ways we will work with him is in how to reduce the number of amendments. We are now waiting for our distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, Senator COBURN, to join us. We know he has something to say on the bill.

This is a new subcommittee that has been constituted. I used to be the ranking member of a subcommittee that has been dissolved, VA/HUD and Independent Agencies. Under the "independent agencies," was the important agency of FEMA. Now I understand the leadership of FEMA, Mr. Brown, has resigned. We look to the President to give us a topnotch person. We know the vice admiral of the Coast Guard is now in the Gulf. We look at leadership, such as the wonderful person running Red Cross, RADM Marty Evans, whom I knew when she was at the Naval Academy, one of the first women in this country to make admiral rank. Then she went on to a distinguished career running nonprofits and is now with the Red Cross, very much in the spirit and competency of our colleague from North Carolina, Senator ELIZABETH DOLE. We look forward to that leadership.

We need to focus now on two things: Recovery and reform. In moving our bill, we want to work on a bipartisan basis on recovery. There are three Rs to emergency management: Readiness and preparedness; and then response, which needs to be swift and effective; third is recovery.

Recovery is tough. In my home State of Maryland, we have had tornadoes, we have been hit by Hurricane Isabel, when it looked like Baghdad on the Chesapeake Bay. In no way is this akin to what has happened to our friends in the Gulf. But, still, when it is your house and your neighborhood, whether it is 3 blocks or 3,000 acres, we want to work with recovery and do it on a bipartisan basis.

It will take a lot, No. 1, of rebuilding infrastructure so business and people

can come back. Things such as water supplies have been damaged or contaminated. Roads and bridges need repair in order for commerce to pass through.

What comes back? Business, such as the supermarket, or do they wait for the people to come back? We have to be able to help rebuild those communities. We cannot do it without the help of the private sector.

I hope those running Homeland Security, as well as the President's good office, would bring to bear the best of what we know from our home building and construction agency on what we can do to marshal the forces for rebuilding homes and those neighborhoods, particularly the small business—everyone knows what I am talking about, the dry cleaner, the pharmacist, as well as the supermarkets, et cetera, that are lifeblood. We also will have to rebuild schools for our children, as well as coming back with their mom and dad into the safety of a new home.

We also worry that while we are rebuilding the Gulf, and rebuild the Gulf we must, we do not want to create shortages in other parts of other country. Lumber is already in short supply, along with other building materials, even the talent, the electricians, plumbers, contractors. That is why we need a national effort.

We hope those who are leading Homeland Security will now look at the recovery phase while we go through the grim task of recovering bodies. We have to recover ourselves. What we do not need to recover, though, because we have never lost it, is the spirit of working together and the spirit that we will be able to do this.

It is September 12. I remember where we were 4 years ago on September 11. Yesterday morning, when I got up to go to church, I had this eerie feeling that the weather was exactly the way it was on September 11. When I went to church, I wore the jacket that I had on that day. I saved that jacket so I would never ever forget what I wore and what I experienced that day.

For all of the fear and all of the grief, I remember on the Capitol steps we sang "God Bless America." I stood shoulder to shoulder with Senator LOTT that day, then as the Republican leader, and stand with him today in terms of recovery of his own community. We have to get back to that spirit where we thought we could work together in this institution, in the House, and with the people.

On September 12, we want to honor, again, pay our respects to those who were killed on September 11, to our wonderful first responders who risked life and limb to save people. Now we are at it once again. For our first responders and our responders in the Gulf now, going through that mercury-contaminated water, they each have their own risk.

They are counting on us to be able to work together, bring in the national

resources and marshal the private sector resources, as well as the nonprofit resources, so that by the time we get to Thanksgiving we will have been well on our way. So we look to be able to do that. We in Commerce, Justice, and Science look forward to doing our part, carrying our heavy lifting. There is no lifting too heavy to help people in our own country that have been so devastated.

For everyone working on this out there in the field, the tremendous number of volunteers, the generosity of spirit of the people and, I might add, the private sector that is marshaling, we say thank you. We have a big job to do. One of the big jobs we have to do is here, working on a bipartisan basis, to be collegial, to be civil, and to get the job done.

Let's ask of ourselves exactly what we ask the people working down in the Gulf. Let's not have a slow, sluggish response from the Congress. Let's be effective in targeting our resources.

I have a long-range idea I would like to share on the idea of reform. When I was the chairman of VA/HUD, before the 1994 Republican Gingrich revolution, I found that FEMA was a dated agency. It was focused on the Cold War. It was worrying about where to send the Coast Guard if we had a nuclear attack. It was riddled with staff at Federal and State levels, with cronies and hacks and people with no experience in emergency management.

When Hurricane Andrew hit Florida with such enormous devastation, we found Andrew people were doubly victimized. They were victimized by the hurricane, and then they were victimized by the inept approach of FEMA.

I went to work on reform. I worked with President Bush's dad—I call him President Bush 1—and Andy Card, who is now the President's Chief of Staff, to reform FEMA. We did. Let me tell you we totally reformed FEMA. When President Clinton came in, he took that early work that we had begun with President Bush 1.

What did we do? First, we said goodbye to the Cold War. The Cold War was over, except for the Federal bureaucracy. We said goodbye to the Cold War. We said that FEMA now had to be a professional agency; that it needed to be headed by someone who had either emergency management experience, and actually responded to emergencies, or comparable experience in the military or in private sector with crisis management. President Clinton gave us James Lee Witt.

Second, we encouraged Governors to do the same thing at the State level. The more they did, the more we could help.

Third, we said that FEMA had to become an all-hazards agency, it had to be ready for a hurricane or tornado. But in becoming "all hazards," it had to go to the risk-based strategy. We analyzed what Americans were most likely to have, particularly in terms of natural disasters. It was tornadoes and

hurricanes, followed of course by earthquakes, though less frequent, severe, and devastating. We then encouraged the States to have real plans for evacuation; that they had to be ready, they had to have things pre-positioned where things were most likely to happen. If you were worried about hurricanes and "northeasters," you did not pre-position in Maryland from Allegany County, where we are subjected more to floods.

So, readiness and then recovery. Readiness, response, and recovery. It worked very well.

After September 11, and our desire to be effective and supportive in fighting the global war against terrorism, FEMA was moved to Homeland Security. I supported that. I felt again that was the home of the first responders. That was the home where the local fire departments could apply for protective gear that firefighters needed.

I now have second thoughts because when FEMA moved to Homeland Security, it lost its focus, it lost its way, and it definitely lost its leadership. I believe the President will focus now on giving us the right leadership.

We have to get a new focus, and this is why I would like to see the Federal Emergency Management Agency again become an independent agency that is an all-hazards agency, goes to the risks facing the American people. There are natural disasters and there are terrorists. We cannot forget there are those who have a predatory intent against the United States of America and its communities. So we have to be ready to respond if they get through the fabulous intelligence network that we have to protect us. We want to be ready for that.

Quite frankly, there are those who say: Well, Senator MIKULSKI, are you saying we are going to worry more about tornadoes than terrorists? Absolutely not. We have to be ready. But if you look at our cities and our larger communities, which are often the greatest targets of these international predators, these international thugs, these international terrorists, we have to be ready.

Just think, New Orleans could have been hit by a dirty bomb. New Orleans could have been hit by a chemical or biological attack. New Orleans could have been hit by bin Laden or Zarqawi or whomever, by blowing up the levees. So the consequences to the city—whether it is New Orleans or Baltimore or a city in California or any city—would be the same. We would have to be ready to respond, and to respond swiftly. Then, of course, we would have the recovery.

So if we have to evacuate the Capital region, it is the same whether we are hit by some natural disaster or predatory attack. If we have to evacuate San Francisco or LA in California, it is the same. So the reform comes after the recovery. Right now, we have to be swift and sure in responding to the people who need us the most.

Mr. President, I note the Senator from Oklahoma has come to the floor. I ask the Senator if he is prepared to speak?

Mr. President, I will yield the floor. Again, I reiterate my pledge for bipartisan support on our recovery efforts. And I look forward to working on a reform package with equal bipartisan support.

I yield the floor.

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCIENCE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, AND COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

AMENDMENT NO. 1648

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1648 on the CJS appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN] proposes an amendment No. 1648.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To eliminate the funding for the Advanced Technology Program and increase the funding available for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, community oriented policing service, and State and local law enforcement assistance)

On page 170, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 304.(a) Notwithstanding the provisions in title III under the heading "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY" and under the subheading "INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES", none of the funds appropriated in this Act may be made available for the Advanced Technology Program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available in title III under the heading "NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION" and under the subheading "OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES" for the National Weather Service is increased by \$4,900,000 and, of the total amount made available for such purpose under such subheading, \$3,950,000 shall be made available for the Coastal and Inland Hurricane Monitoring and Prediction Program and \$3,950,000 shall be made available for the Hurricane and Tornado Broadcast Campaign.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made appropriated in title I under the heading "OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS" and under the subheading "COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES" is increased by \$72,000,000 and, of the total amount made available under such subheading, not less than \$132,100,000 shall be made available for the Methamphetamine Hot Spots program.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, the amount made appropriated