

for potential members to have a secret ballot. Unions are for the members, not for the union bosses. Members have a right to know. That is what the law passed in 1959 was and is all about. Enforce the law. Be sure union members have a right to know.

I would also like to point out that the legislation does not contain funding for the National All Schedules Prescription Reporting Act—NASPER. Known as NASPER, this law was designed to assist States in setting up prescription drug monitoring programs—to make sure people can't get multiple refills of their restricted prescriptions merely by crossing State lines. Instead, this legislation funds an unauthorized similar program through the Justice Department. Congress should first fund the programs that are authorized by committees that have jurisdiction over the measures. As the lead Republican on the HELP Committee, I know the value of the authorization process—Federal programs are reviewed by Senators and staff to ensure there is value for program beneficiaries and taxpayers alike. Funding unauthorized programs usurps the entire authorizing committee process.

All that being said, there are many provisions in this legislation that are not objectionable, and some of which I support. Like previous years, the bill contains language that prohibits the Labor Secretary from issuing regulations related to the Workforce Investment Act, known as WIA, until the Congress has reauthorized the program. Reauthorizing WIA is a bipartisan priority for the HELP Committee, and a top personal goal of mine that I have been working toward for many years. Congress should first act to reauthorize the law before the administration moves forward with regulations. This reauthorization is long overdue. Modernizing job training programs will result in better, higher paying jobs. Under my chairmanship, we passed this reauthorization—but it was held by Democrats who would not allow the appointment of conferees because of concerns they would not be included in the process. That argument no longer holds true. They control a majority in each legislative body, and a majority on conference committees. Congress needs to pass this legislation to provide training for current and future jobs so Americans have the skills they need to get the best jobs—instead of sending them overseas because we don't have trained workers at home.

This legislation also restores the authority of the Railroad Retirement Board Office of the Inspector General to conduct Railroad Medicare audits and investigations. Similar language was included in previous years, but was dropped in the conference with the House. My hope is that this year we will be successful in restoring that authority. In September, Senator KENNEDY and I, together with Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY, weighed in on this issue with the Appropriations

Committee, thanking them for including this language in their bill, and urging them to fight for this provision in conference. Restoring the ability to audit is fiscally responsible, and is the right thing to do.

In closing, while there are valuable provisions in the Labor-HHS spending bill that ought to be enacted, I will be voting against this legislation because of the excessive total spending level, as well as some objectionable policy language that I have discussed today.

I stand ready to work with all of my colleagues on a compromise product that can garner support from both the legislative as well as the executive branch of our Government.

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. HARKIN. 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, 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. DURBIN. 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.

ONGOING TRAGEDY IN BURMA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the past few weeks, I have joined many of my fellow Senators from both sides of the aisle in speaking about the recent events in Burma.

A few weeks ago, the world watched in admiration and support as thousands of Buddhist monks peacefully marched through Burma's largest cities calling for an end to that country's brutal military dictatorship. Amidst tens of thousands of clapping and cheering supporters, the monks chanted "democracy, democracy."

All the while, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi remained locked under house arrest—an appalling situation that has continued for most of the last 18 years of her life. Despite the shameful detention, the Burmese people have not forgotten it was her political party that won a landslide victory in the 1990 election.

During the recent protests, the monks reportedly reached Suu Kyi's heavily guarded home, where witnesses said she greeted them at her gate in tears.

This scene is moving in its dignity and simplicity—a population peacefully saying: Enough.

What happened next was tragic. The military in Burma used violence, murder, and arbitrary detention to try to halt the calls for change. The military did what all dictatorships do: it used fear to suppress its own people. Yet it is the military that is truly afraid—afraid of the people of Burma, afraid of change, afraid of releasing Aung San Suu Kyi.

This Reuters photograph is so graphic. It shows Burmese military violently attacking peaceful protesters. It also shows a Japanese photographer, Kenji Nagai, being shot at close range. You see his body lying on the street. Mr. Nagai died shortly after this photo was taken. The military's mouthpiece newspaper brazenly said his death was his own fault as he was "inviting danger" by being among the protesters.

Sadly, reports from the past few days are even more tragic. Instead of reaching out to Aung San Suu Kyi and the international community to work toward peace, the military has only furthered its brutal crackdown, hunting down and detaining leaders of the peaceful movement.

Amnesty International has expressed concern that the arrested dissidents will be tortured—a real concern in a country with an abhorrent record of torturing political prisoners. For example, the 2006 State Department Human Rights Report on Burma cites a recent study by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners that meticulously documents the regular use of electric shocks, beating until unconscious, forced crawling on glass, and threats of rape. The Government is reportedly even hunting down simple participants and bystanders from the rallies, including groups of "those who watched," "those who clapped," and "those who joined in."

Mr. President, this is madness. The United States and international community must not allow this to continue. This is a government with a long and well-documented history of brutality and indifference to its people. For example, in eastern Burma, the military has destroyed 3,000 villages over the past 10 years. It has widely used forced labor and has recruited up to 70,000 child soldiers—70,000 child soldiers—far more than any other country in the world. Today, Burma has an estimated 1.5 million refugees.

Global condemnation of Burma's brutal actions has been loud and swift. European Union foreign ministers have just approved new sanctions against the military junta, including an embargo on the export of wood, gems, and metals, and threatened further penalties. President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush have similarly called for

greater international pressure to make it clear to the generals that they will be completely isolated by the international community if they continue.

The Association of Southeastern Asian Nations, ASEAN, expressed revulsion at the killings and demanded fellow member Burma stop using violence against demonstrators. Japan announced a cut in foreign assistance. And just the other day, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement agreed to by all of its members saying that it “deplores the use of violence against peaceful demonstrations” in Burma, called for the release of “all political prisoners and remaining detainees,” and urged a “genuine dialogue” with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Recently, Senators FEINSTEIN, KERRY, LIEBERMAN, and I joined for a discussion with the Chinese Ambassador on the situation in Burma. We discussed the need for China, in particular, to play a more constructive role in ending the violence and pushing for democratic change. I am glad that China helped with U.N. Special Envoy Gambari’s timely trip to Burma and its support of the recent U.N. statement. But the global community must do more. China must do more. And the United States must do more. We must not let the brutal crackdown bring an end to the desperate need for change in Burma.

So once again, I speak to lend my support to these peaceful protests and to call on the Burmese military to immediately begin working with Aung San Suu Kyi and the U.N. envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, to bring about peaceful change and democracy in Burma. It should also unconditionally release all political prisoners, including four recently detained dissidents, Htay Kywe, Mie Mie, Min Ko Naing, and Ko Ko Gyi.

I call on the ASEAN nations and the Governments of China, Thailand, and India to use their special relationships with the Burmese Government to once and for all start democratic change. ASEAN should consider suspending, even expelling, Burma under these circumstances, and Japan needs to apply even greater economic pressure.

I also call on the U.N. to tighten sanctions, including an arms embargo against the Burmese military. We in Congress should also do all we can to tighten our existing sanctions against Burma.

My colleague Senator McCAIN has introduced important legislation to take such steps. I am pleased to enthusiastically cosponsor Senator McCAIN’s bipartisan efforts.

The circumstances in Burma couldn’t be more compelling: A Nobel Peace Prize winner is held under house arrest for 12 of the last 18 years, held under house arrest even while her party wins a landslide election in the country; a brutal and corrupt military government pillages the country’s economic wealth and its own children’s future; and repeated attempts by the people

through elections and peaceful demonstrations to bring about democratic change are extinguished.

No nation on Earth should support or protect this ghastly regime. No nation should trade one more item with these horrible leaders in the junta in Burma. And no nation should ever sell any arms to a regime which treats its people with such brutality.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ALASKA DAY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today is Alaska Day, the day 140 years ago when our territory was officially transferred from Russia to the United States. That was the beginning of a long road towards the American dream for our State.

What was once called “Seward’s folly” has become one of our Nation’s great assets. Alaska has more than made good on Seward’s initial investment. The Federal Government has collected enough revenue from the development of our resources to repay this investment hundreds and hundreds of times over.

Over the years, Alaskans have worked hard to realize our land’s vast potential. And, while much remains to be done, we have much to celebrate.

We are working towards creating a climate for investment, attracting capital to develop and market our valuable natural resources. As our state grows, we are working to ensure that all Alaskans enjoy the benefits of a strong and vibrant economy.

Through programs such as the Denali Commission, we are building modern water and sewer facilities, health care centers and providing education and job opportunities to Alaskans in the far corners of our state.

Though many challenges lay ahead, today, we can look on our accomplishments and know that together we can continue making progress on the road to the American Dream.

FURTHER CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, pursuant to section 301 of S. Con. Res. 21, I previously filed revisions to S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution. Those revisions were made for legislation reauthorizing the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, SCHIP.

Congress cleared H.R. 976 on September 27, 2007. The President vetoed that legislation on October 3, 2007. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives was unsuccessful today in its attempt to override that veto. Consequently, I am further revising the 2008 budget resolution and reversing the adjustments previously made pursuant to section 301 to the aggregates and the allocation provided to the Senate Finance Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—S. CON. RES. 21; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 301 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR SCHIP LEGISLATION

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101:	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	1,900,340
FY 2008	2,015,841
FY 2009	2,113,811
FY 2010	2,169,475
FY 2011	2,350,248
FY 2012	2,488,296
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	-4,366
FY 2008	-34,955
FY 2009	6,885
FY 2010	5,754
FY 2011	-44,302
FY 2012	-108,800
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2007	2,371,470
FY 2008	2,495,877
FY 2009	2,517,139
FY 2010	2,570,687
FY 2011	2,686,675
FY 2012	2,721,607
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2007	2,294,862
FY 2008	2,467,472
FY 2009	2,565,763
FY 2010	2,600,015
FY 2011	2,693,749
FY 2012	2,705,780

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[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Finance Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	1,011,527
FY 2007 Outlays	1,017,808
FY 2008 Budget Authority	1,088,003
FY 2008 Outlays	1,082,326
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	6,065,057
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	6,056,617
Adjustments:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	0
FY 2007 Outlays	0
FY 2008 Budget Authority	-9,098
FY 2008 Outlays	-2,412
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	-47,678
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	-34,907
Revised Allocation to Senate Finance Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	1,011,527
FY 2007 Outlays	1,017,808
FY 2008 Budget Authority	1,078,905
FY 2008 Outlays	1,079,914
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	6,017,379
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	6,021,710

CLIMATE SECURITY ACT

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today our friends and colleagues Senators LIEBERMAN and WARNER are introducing their bill to cap carbon emissions. I would like to outline some of the ways their approach will unfairly and unnecessarily hurt our most vulnerable families and workers.

To begin with, capping carbon will make more expensive what we all depend upon in our everyday lives. Our heating bills in the winter, air conditioning bills in the summer, every time we put gas in our cars; they will all be much more expensive under their plan.

While the rich can afford higher power bills, millions of struggling families cannot. Will we force them to