

This straightforward amendment doesn't add any costs to the Federal Government. In fact, allowing the city to advance fund the remainder of the project would actually reduce the Federal Government's overall cost because the project would be completed in a much shorter timeframe.

Such authorities have been extended to other Federal flood control projects in the past. Senator JOHNSON and I are simply seeking additional flexibility that will allow the city to expedite construction of the Big Sioux Flood Control Project. I believe the city's willingness to advance fund this flood control project underscores their commitment to finishing this much needed project.

I look forward to working with the bill managers to try to get this amendment voted on, to get it included in the underlying bill as we work to reform our Nation's flood insurance program.

I hope we can work through this jurisdictional issue because this is an issue of timing. There is another WRDA bill that may come down the road, but the last one took 7 years to get on the floor of the Senate. I don't believe the next one will take that long. In any case, the city of Sioux Falls—the largest community in my State—is looking at 11 years to complete this project.

As soon as FEMA designates this flood plain, 1,600 homeowners will be faced with an insurance bill. All the city is trying to do is take the initiative to complete this project in a more timely way by advance funding it and then allowing the Federal Government, through the Corps, to reimburse through what would be annual appropriations, which could take perhaps 11 or more years to get. I think this is a commonsense, practical solution. The city has stepped forward on this. I hope we can include it in this bill before we get to final passage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank the Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. 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. DODD. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all amendments to S. 2284 must be offered during Thursday's session, May 8; that the only amendments in order on Monday be the pending substitute amendment; further that a managers' amendment still be in order if cleared by the managers and leaders, the McConnell amendment No. 4720, with the Allard amendment No. 4721 withdrawn prior to a vote in relation to the McConnell amendment; a Reid and others amendment relating to

the subject of energy; that the McConnell and Reid amendments be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold; that if either amendment achieves that threshold, then the amendment be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that if neither achieves the 60-affirmative-vote threshold, then it be withdrawn; that the vote with respect to the McConnell amendment No. 4720 occur at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 12, to be followed by a vote in relation to the Reid, et al., amendment; that upon disposition of all amendments, the substitute amendment, as amended, if amended, be agreed to; the bill read a third time, and the Senate then vote on passage of S. 2284, as amended; further that the previous order which referenced H.R. 3121 be changed to reflect passage of a flood insurance bill, either S. 2284 or H.R. 3121, and the cloture motion on amendment No. 4720 be withdrawn.

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I thank all involved. I thank the majority staff, the minority staff, and the respective Members who helped us put this agreement together. Basically, what it says is we have to offer, debate, and vote on all amendments by the end of business tomorrow, and then leaving off until next week the issue involving the energy issues which the majority leader talked about earlier this evening. That will allow us to hopefully complete consideration of the flood insurance bill.

I know I speak for Senator SHELBY and other members of the committee, as I mentioned earlier, we passed this bill unanimously out of the Banking Committee some months ago. The fact that we will be able to come to closure on the bill by the end of business tomorrow is good news for literally millions of people who are counting on having a good flood insurance program.

I would like to make some unanimous consent requests.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. I 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

USS "COLE" INVESTIGATION

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this past weekend a front page article in the Washington Post reminded us of the devastating attack on the USS *Cole* and the inability—or unwillingness—of the administration to see the investigation to the finish line. Nearly 8 years since the attack on the *Cole*, and 6½ since September 11, 2001, an attack directly linked to al-Qaida—and to bin Laden himself—remains stalled, at best, with few answers to key questions.

I would like to take a minute to remind my colleagues of the attack I am referring to—an attack perhaps not as seared into our memories as those horrific ones of 9/11, but one that is equally as painful for those who lost loved ones and are still waiting to hold someone to account. On October 12, 2000, as the USS Navy destroyer *Cole* stopped briefly to refuel in the harbor of Aden, Yemen, it was attacked by a small boat loaded with explosives. The attack killed 17 members of the ship's crew, including a sailor from my home State of Wisconsin. At least 39 others were wounded. According to the 9/11 Commission Report, "The plot . . . was a full-fledged al Qaida operation, supervised directly by [Osama] bin Laden." Although teams from the FBI and other U.S. agencies were immediately sent to Yemen to investigate, the Yemeni government was hesitant to participate in the investigation.

While the Yemenis eventually agreed to a joint investigation, the 9/11 Commission Report notes that the CIA described Yemeni support for the investigation as "slow and inadequate" and that in the early stages of the investigation President Clinton, Secretary Albright, and others had to intervene to help. What followed was a number of arrests by the Yemeni government of people connected to the attack—including those found to have close links to al-Qaida—but less than 3 years after their arrest, 10 were able to escape from prison.

Shortly after the jail break, the Justice Department unveiled a 51-count indictment against two of the escapees, including cell leader Jamal al-Badawi. Both were indicted on various terror offenses, included the murder of U.S. nationals and U.S. military personnel. Yet Yemen refused to extradite al-Badawi. Despite a trial in 2004 that condemned him to death—a sentence which was later reduced to 15 years in prison al-Badawi dug his way to freedom in 2006 with a number of other convicts. Although he surrendered 20 months later, al-Badawi was able to strike a deal with the government which rendered him a free man. No one has been charged in U.S. courts and none of those imprisoned remain behind bars. The USS *Cole* investigation remains unfinished as there has been no real accountability for the deaths of 17 Americans.

I am deeply troubled by the message we are sending to our enemies by allowing this investigation to languish, while many of those involved in the attack walk free. Since 2003, I have repeatedly requested information from the State and Defense Departments, CIA, and FBI about these attacks, the circumstances surrounding the detention and escape of the suspects, and efforts to find and detain those involved. In 2006, I wrote to Secretary Rice and the Director of National Intelligence, DNI, expressing grave concern about al-Badawi's multiple escapes and in 2007 I strongly condemned the Yemeni government's decision to release him.

There is little to inspire confidence in our efforts to hold these terrorists to account for their actions and even less to show for our work to date. Our reliance on the government of Yemen to detain and prosecute these known members of al-Qaida—and their inability or unwillingness to do so—calls into question the partnerships and relationships we have secured in our efforts to meet the number one threat we face. The State Department's 2007 "Country Terrorism Report" notes that Yemen has "experienced several setbacks to its counterterrorism efforts" and recounts multiple examples of the Yemeni government's inability to apprehend escaped convicts—many of whom are members of al-Qaida and are associated with the USS *Cole* attack. Furthermore, for the past two years Yemen has been listed as a terrorist safe haven because of al-Qaida's ability to "reconstitute operational cells there" and carry out "several terrorist attacks against tourist targets."

How reliable is the Yemeni government as a partner in the fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates if it has been designated as a safe haven for terrorists? What efforts are being taken to ensure the Yemenis commit to combating terrorists and work with us to hold those responsible for the USS *Cole* attack accountable? Can we assure the American people that the Yemenis will ensure al-Qaida is denied access to resources, opportunities and safe spaces from which to operate? We cannot simply rely on others to do our work—especially when they are clearly not doing the job that needs to be done. We cannot sit back and allow others to take the reins while we remain distracted.

The war in Iraq has brought about a dramatic and regrettable shift in our priorities—a shift away from the top threat to our national security. Despite the persistent calls from the majority of Americans, we remain bogged down in Iraq—while it drains our resources, saps our attention, and depletes us of our ability to focus on our top national security concerns. I am concerned that this same lack of focus may be behind the administration's failures with respect to the attack on the *Cole*. The administration has paid relatively little attention to the marginalization of the USS *Cole* investigation, despite how critically important it remains to our national interest.

The global fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates must be our top priority, and the administration must take seriously its responsibility to ensure that the al-Qaida operatives behind the attack on the USS *Cole* are held to account for their heinous actions.

NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize National Arson Awareness Week, May 4-10, and its theme for 2008: "Toy-like Lighters Playing with Fire."

The major goal of National Arson Awareness Week is to promote national recognition, awareness and understanding of the arson problem in the United States. By creating a new theme each year, the National Arson Awareness Week encourages local communities to come together and promote a different aspect of arson awareness information. Intentionally set fires are a leading cause of fire deaths and a frequent cause of financial losses in the United States. The theme for this year's Arson Awareness Week, "Toy-like Lighters—Playing with Fire," focuses public attention on the dangers of toy-like or novelty lighters in the hands of children.

Novelty lighters are frequently mistaken by children for play toys, some complete with visual effects, flashing lights and musical sounds. Such cases of mistaken identity often carry devastating consequences.

National Arson Awareness Week greatly benefits communities in California and across the Nation, as it highlights awareness of the dangers posed by arson-related issues throughout local communities. I commend the local fire departments and localities that have worked to promote awareness of the dangers posed by toy-like and novelty lighters through the National Arson Awareness Week of 2008.

CELEBRATING PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today, Senator INOUE and I celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard has held a significant place in both Hawaii and our Nation's history. Even before Congress passed an act in 1908 officially creating the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor has been an important port for ships and sailors from across the world.

Early in the 19th century, Pearl Harbor, or "Wai-Momi," served as a primary port for exploration and trade. By the late 1800s, the United States was looking toward Pearl Harbor to serve as the center of its expanding Pacific Fleet. On May 13, 1908, Congress solidified Pearl Harbor's strategic importance by appropriating \$3 million to officially establish the Navy Yard at Pearl Harbor. Over the next 33 years, the new naval facility at Pearl Harbor was transformed into a site capable of basing the then-newly formed U.S. Pacific Fleet, and changed the face of Hawaii in the Pacific forever.

Every schoolchild in the United States learns about the events on the morning of December 7, 1941. That was the day the U.S. Naval forces at Pearl Harbor were devastated by the Imperial Japanese Navy's surprise attack. Nine ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet sank, and more than 2,300 American lives were lost. However, our children are taught far less often about the courageous resolve and dedication demonstrated by the shipyard's employees. After resurrecting much of the fleet

from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, and repairing 18 of 21 severely damaged vessels, the workers earned the motto, "We Keep Them Fit to Fight." Their commitment to duty became a model of the U.S. war effort during World War II.

The effort and hard work by Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard personnel to maintain the ships of the U.S. Navy helped to turn the tide of war at sea in the Battle of Midway. Their tireless work ultimately ensured that of the ships damaged on December 7, salvaged, repaired, and returned to service, one, the USS West Virginia, survived the duration of the war to sail triumphantly into Tokyo Bay in August 1945. The integrity, ethos, and determination of Pearl Harbor Shipyard workers continued throughout the Cold War, and provided the United States with a national treasure and a strategically critical base of operations for Pacific naval and air power.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, the rich history and unflagging service of the men and women at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard highlighted by Senator AKAKA continues today.

Once again our Nation is at war, and our Naval Forces engaged in the global war on terror can rely on the shipyard to provide top quality support. The shipyard's work focuses on the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and makes the shipyard the largest repair facility between the west coast of the United States and the Far East. The shipyard provides full-service maintenance for both the Pacific Fleet's ships and submarines throughout the Asia-Pacific theater. In addition to this significant responsibility, the shipyard has demonstrated its diverse capabilities by supporting our nation's space exploration, Antarctic expeditions, missile defense, and its ability to rapidly respond by deploying worldwide to perform emergency repairs.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is a national treasure, and it is known as "No Ka Oi," or "The Best" Shipyard. In the tradition of upholding this moniker, it has earned multiple national awards for its excellent safety and environmental stewardship programs. These awards include the prestigious Occupational Safety and Health Administration Star, and the White House Closing the Circle Environmental Quality Awards.

Beyond the numerous contributions to our U.S. Navy, the shipyard is also an integral part of Hawaii. It is the largest single industrial employer in the State, and its direct annual economic impact is greater than \$600 million in Hawaii. Through its apprentice, engineer co-op, and other student hire programs, Hawaii residents are provided with extraordinary training, employment, and career opportunities. For some families this tradition to keep our ships and submarines "fit to fight" runs throughout a generation