

Had I been here, I would have voted for cloture on Rockefeller amendment No. 3911, the Intelligence Committee's FISA bill, and against cloture on Reid amendment No. 3918, to temporarily extend the Protect America Act.

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.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ECONOMY AND FORECLOSURES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last night, President Bush spoke of the bipartisan effort we've seen to put together an economic stimulus package.

I have joined this chorus of praise. It is important for us to remember that despite our differences, we can find common ground in pursuit of common good.

The stimulus package is in markup today in the Finance Committee. I am confident that Chairman BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY will send a bill to the floor that all 100 Senators can proudly support.

We all agree that with our economy ailing, homeowners struggling and energy prices rising, this short-term stimulus plan will help working Americans make ends meet.

But I think we also all agree that this is only the first step. A short-term solution will help, but we must create long-term solutions that will treat the cause rather than the symptoms.

President Bush suggested last night that this could be accomplished with more tax cuts for the wealthy.

We strongly disagree. No one wondering if they can make their next mortgage payment or whether they can afford to retire believes that more tax cuts for the rich will solve this problem.

This morning, the Reno Gazette Journal reported that home foreclosures in Washoe County—the Reno area of Nevada—skyrocketed 614 percent in 2007 from the year before.

This pain isn't just felt in one area or neighborhood. Foreclosures have risen in all parts of the Truckee Meadows.

One realtor said:

It's ridiculous. I'm up to 22 right now. A year ago, I had zero. I have potentially another 50 homes not foreclosed on yet but are on the brink. And that's just me.

Experts say this crisis in Reno, throughout Nevada, and all over America is going growing worse.

Nationally, foreclosures jumped 79 percent in 2007.

One of America's largest lenders, Countrywide, just reported that one out of every three subprime loans is now delinquent.

And this is affecting not just the families who may lose their homes—but their neighbors who are seeing property values drop, and all of us who are faced with the collateral damage of a badly damaged housing market.

We call on President Bush to work with us to solve this and other economic problems.

We need to provide tax incentives for companies to invest in renewable energy. This will create jobs, save consumers money, and protect our air.

America's infrastructure is crumbling. We saw it in the bridge collapse. Investing in our infrastructure will not only strengthen our communities, it will strengthen our economy by creating good-paying jobs.

For every \$10 billion we spend on infrastructure, we create 47,500 new jobs. And for every \$10 million capital investment in public transportation, we create \$30 million in sales for businesses.

Instead of cutting funding for community block grants and the Consumer Credit Council in his budget, the President should sit down with us to come up with real long-term solutions.

With less than a year to go in his term, we can still come together to solve these problems and get America's economy working again.

CITY OF HARTFORD, KENTUCKY, CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish today to honor a long respected community in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky, the city of Hartford, which on February 3, 2008, will celebrate 200 years of establishment in the Commonwealth.

Since February 3, 1808, the great city of Hartford has been a part of my great State. After an act of the legislature of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Hartford was formally established on 400 acres of land around Rough River, in the county of Ohio, occupying the land of the late Gabriel Madison. The city humbly began governing with a group of seven trustees overseeing the town and has since grown to a population of over 2,000 outstanding citizens and has developed into the administrative center for Ohio County, becoming the county seat. Now, great leadership comes from Mayor Earl Russell, who proudly carries on the tradition of his family of governing in Hartford.

As proclaimed in Hartford's town slogan, this honored town is home to "2,000 happy people and a few soreheads." These "soreheads and happy people" strenuously work to promote civic pride and generate the enthusiasm needed to accomplish future goals throughout their city.

Due to the enthusiasm from citizens like these and great leadership from

Mayor Earl Russell, Kentucky has grown to the honorable State it is today. Inhabiting the western coal field region of the State, Hartford has been contributing to the Commonwealth for 200 years and has planned a celebration in honor of this. Because of the continued contribution of the citizens of Hartford to the betterment of their town, county and the Commonwealth, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating with them today for 200 years of dedication.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would strengthen and add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On January 14, 2008, 63-year-old Baljeet Singh was parking his car outside a Sikh temple in Queens, NY, when David Wood, 36, approached him. Wood reportedly shouted: "Arab, go back to your country" before physically attacking Singh. Wood continued to hurl epithets as he beat Singh, allegedly without provocation. Singh, whose family has attended the temple—known as a gurdwara—for over 12 years, sustained a broken nose and jaw, both of which may require surgery. Wood, who lives near the temple and allegedly has a history of harassing its members, has been charged with second-degree assault as a hate crime, second and third degree assault, and second-degree aggravated harassment.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and violent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by protecting new groups of people as well as better protecting citizens already covered under deficient laws. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

JUSTICE

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to speak about justice.

Today, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in coordination with the Targum Shlishi Foundation, is conducting Operation: Last Chance, a final effort to bring the most guilty Nazis to justice before they die. The perpetrators of the Holocaust must not be allowed to cheat their deserved fate.

The uniqueness of the Holocaust crime lies not wholly in its number of

victims, though that number was horrifyingly large. Its singularity is also the reality of a modern government's methodically executed plan to annihilate an entire race, an effort that is now one of the greatest crimes against humanity the world has ever seen. Even in a century where so much blood was shed—in China, Russia, Africa, and the Middle East—the Holocaust stands alone. For the victims of the Holocaust were chosen not based on any threat to the state, real or imaginary. Indeed, some victims had served with distinction in the German Army during the First World War, and many had then given their lives for their country. They were chosen instead simply for who they were, one of the most ancient peoples to grace this Earth, and one which has never before come so perilously close to utter oblivion.

Historians have argued for years about why and how the Holocaust occurred. But for the survivors, and even more for victims, that question is entirely secondary. There is only the reality of the crime and the ongoing quest for justice.

We can argue about which Nazi organizations are the most culpable and which were relatively ignorant. As the Nuremberg war crimes trials showed, all Germans are not guilty, and not all are innocent. In some cases, the line blurs slightly. But that does not mean the line does not exist because some—many, perhaps all—are certainly guilty. The Einsatzgruppen. The concentration camp guards. The SS. The bureaucrats who signed off on orders with little thought of the immense crime which they were committing. For these people, there can be no amnesty. There can be no looking away. There must be justice.

Unfortunately, after the war, many of the guilty scattered to the four corners of the earth. Some, like Klaus Barbie, fled to South America. Others remained in Germany, Austria, and the Balkans, where successor governments to the Axis gradually lost interest in prosecution. Many fled to the United States, which had only finished fighting the Nazi threat when it faced a resurgent Soviet threat. The Cold War diverted, partially, the Western governments from bringing Nazi killers to justice. Living in homes across the United States and Europe, working at normal jobs and raising families, the most culpable killers may have thought they escaped a reckoning. And, for a time, they did. The Government was certainly not looking for them. But one man was. One man had himself been a prisoner in those terrible camps and had seen firsthand the horrors perpetrated there.

Simon Wiesenthal began searching for Nazis and documenting the crimes of them after World War II, and continued for many years. The Simon Wiesenthal Center was founded in 1977 and has an impressive track record of combating modern bigotry and anti-

semitism, promoting human rights, and ensuring the safety of Jews worldwide. These efforts complement Simon Wiesenthal's life's work in hunting Nazi fugitives and trying to repair, in part, the damage of the Holocaust.

Today, however, the hour grows late. It is now almost 63 years since the end of World War II. Every week, Nazi criminals are passing away, 80 and 90-year-old men escaping the long arm of justice. Many of the host countries in which they reside are grateful for this quiet end, avoiding uncomfortable legal proceedings and revisiting old specters from the past.

But the easy way is almost never the right way. In these later days, it is incumbent on all of us to help finish the task Simon Wiesenthal began decades ago. In view of the dwindling time available, the center launched Operation Last Chance in 2002, which is aimed at finding Nazi fugitives in the Baltic states, Poland, Romania, Germany, Austria, Croatia, and Hungary. There is much work to do: the opening of the Soviet archives since 1991 offers a magnificent opportunity to identify some of the most guilty Nazis, previously hidden behind the Iron Curtain.

Operation Last Chance is fittingly named, after a final opportunity to bring those remaining Nazis to earthly justice before they meet eternal justice. To date Wiesenthal Center has identified nearly 500 war crimes suspects, 99 of whom have been turned over to prosecutors. Operation Last Chance primarily focuses on offering rewards for the location and arrest of such criminals as Dr. Sandor Kepiro, a Hungarian police official; Milivoj Asner, a police chief in fascist Croatia; Charles—Karoly—Zentai, a fascist Croatian city governor; Erna Wallisch, a German concentration camp guard; and many others; and Dr. Aribert Heim was nicknamed "Dr. Death" for the medical murders and torture he inflicted on hundreds of concentration camp inmates. He is at large, and his whereabouts unknown. Finding him, and prosecuting all of the wanted Nazi criminals, is a task of the utmost moral importance.

The roadblocks are many, and the shortcuts few. This late hour demands that the U.S. Government make every effort to help with Operation Last Chance. I call upon the President and Secretary Rice to make it clear to our European and South American allies that we will not tolerate footdragging on extradition orders, deportation, and criminal indictments. We will not tolerate the easy way. We demand that they commit the resources of the U.S. Government to this cause that our descendants will not look back on us and say: In the end, they did too little. In the end, they turned away.

JOHN SIDNEY 'SID' FLOWERS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Sid-

ney Flowers. Mr. Flowers was the respected Solicitor General for Liberty County, GA, a popular member of the community, a loving family man and a true Southern gentleman.

After high school, Sid Flowers gave 2 years of service to his country by enlisting in the Army. He then went on to study law at Mercer University law school in Macon, GA, before heading back to live and work in his hometown in Liberty County, GA.

The community was always at the center of Sid's life. He was chairman of the Liberty County Cancer Society, a member of the Lions Club, the Masonic Lodge and the American Legion, as well as an honorary member of the Georgia Sheriff's Association. He was also a committed elder at the First Presbyterian Church, to which he gave not only his time, but also his legal expertise.

The Senate has passed H.R. 3470, a bill naming the post office in Hinesville, GA, as the Sidney 'Sid' Flowers Post Office Building. It will stand as a reminder of one man's exceptional contribution to his community.

HONORING WILLIE HENSLEY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to join in a colloquy with fellow Alaska Senator TED STEVENS to honor a giant of the Alaska Native rights and Native corporation movement, and an individual who has served his State and Nation for decades with great distinction, Mr. Willie "Iggiagruk" Hensley.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I too rise to join Senator MURKOWSKI in honoring a personal friend and long-time political colleague, Willie Hensley. He soon will be retiring after spending the last 10 years representing the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. in Washington, DC, the pipeline that brings Alaska's North Slope oil to the rest of the Nation. Immediately prior to that job, he was Alaska's Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development, under the administration of former Alaska Governor Tony Knowles. He also has served on important State commissions under both Democratic and Republican governors.

Besides leading Alaska's State department responsible for tourism and seafood marketing, international trade, insurance, banking and securities, and occupational licensing, he also was a director of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, the Alaska Railroad Corporation, and the Alaska Industrial Development Authority under Democratic Governors, and chairman of the Capitol Site Selection Committee and the chairman of the Land Claims Task Force under Republican Governors Jay Hammond and Walter Hickel.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. And before then, as Senator STEVENS well knows, since he too served in the Alaska State Legislature at that time, Mr. Hensley