

will walk out with a sense of satisfaction we did our best. It may well be we will go on next week. Time will tell, subject to this vote tomorrow. As we say in the Navy: Well done, sir.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF STANLEY A. MCCHRYSRAL TO BE LIEUTENANT GENERAL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 599; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, no other motions in order, that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal

Mr. WARNER. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. This nomination is for General McChrystal. General McChrystal is well-known to many of us in the Senate. I recall very vividly the period when our Nation was building its force structure to go into the situation in Iraq. And putting aside all of the honest debate on that decision to go in, I think the professional soldiers like McChrystal did their job.

McChrystal used to come every morning that the Senate was in session, at 8 o'clock, and brief Senators in S. 407. I know the Presiding Officer was there on a number of occasions. He was accompanied by COL Bill Caniano, who is currently on my staff, and they answered the questions, kept the Senate informed as to the buildup of that operation as our forces built up tempo and moved into the Iraq situation. A very fine officer.

He has been in Iraq now—well, I don't think you add up the number of tours because he has basically been there almost constantly over 2½ years; one of the longest serving members, whether it is a general officer or a private, in the Iraq theater. He has distinguished himself particularly on his initiatives to take on al-Qaida at any place, at any time of day or night, and to do the very best to eliminate that threat to not only the U.S. forces, Iraqi forces, but the Iraqi people who were brutally treated by that organization. And to the extent that we have reduced that situation of al-Qaida's capabilities in Iraq today, and also Afghanistan—this officer goes back and forth between

those two theaters—then it is, I would say, with a sense of humility he would say: I think I have done my best.

I am very pleased the President recognized his outstanding career, that he has been nominated now to become the chief of staff for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in operating that very essential part of the defense complex in the Department of Defense.

I thank the Senators, I thank the leadership, the Democratic leadership, particularly Senator DURBIN, who worked on it, and Senator LEVIN; and on this side, the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SESSIONS, and others who worked with me on this nomination during the course of last night's deliberations on a variety of matters on the Senate floor.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business in which Senators may speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

IOWA TORNADO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I probably will not be more than 10 minutes, but I appreciate the will of the Senate if I need a few more minutes.

Today, I pay tribute to the victims of the devastating tornado that ripped through northeast Iowa a week ago Sunday. This would have been Memorial Day weekend. That is a weekend that traditionally offers a thank-you to veterans who have given their lives. It is a time of backyard barbecues, and in the Midwest it is when swimming pools open for business. But late afternoon on May 25, 2008, Mother Nature unleashed a tragic beginning to a summer vacation. It was a kind of natural disaster that makes people realize the perils of pettiness and appreciate what really matters the most.

A history-making twister produced winds in excess of 200 miles per hour. It tore across Butler County—that is my home county—Black Hawk County, Delaware County, and Buchanan County. It paved a 43-mile path of destruction. The severe storm system virtually ripped the town of Parkersburg in half. It destroyed 22 businesses, leveled 222 homes, and damaged 408 others in a community of only 2,000. The storm system injured 70 individuals. The fatalities attributed to the tornado have now risen to eight Iowans.

But the statistics don't do justice to the heartbreak and to the hurt. Nat-

ural disasters have wrought havoc on humanity since the beginning of time. In recent years, the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia claimed more than 100,000 lives and displaced millions of victims from their homes. In September 2005, a category 5 hurricane ravaged the American gulf coast, causing \$11.3 billion in damages. Last year, in Greensburg, KS, a tornado leveled the entire community of 1,400, causing an estimated \$267 million in damage. The financial estimate of damage from the May 25 tornado in my home area from storms and flooding hasn't been calculated yet, but the pricetag will not do justice to the heartbreak and to the hurt.

Whether it is an earthquake, a hurricane, or a tornado, a natural disaster leaves behind massive debris and destruction. The physical and financial tolls shouldered by the victims arguably pale compared to the emotional scars and personal losses left in the aftermath of a killer natural disaster.

This tornado was what they call an F-5 tornado, the worst they get. It struck terror into the hearts and minds of northeast Iowans over Memorial Day weekend, and it also hit close to home as well. From the lawn on my farm near New Hartford, I watched what I thought was nothing but a dark storm cloud blackening the sky as the tornado made its way across Butler County from Parkersburg—population, as I said, about 2,000—to my hometown of New Hartford, population 600.

It was the first F-5 tornado to strike Iowa since 1976, so tornadoes like this don't happen every day in our State. Maybe they do in Oklahoma, but they do not every day in my State. And it happened to be the deadliest tornado in the State since the 1968 tornado in Charles City, IA. I believe that tornado claimed about 13 lives compared to the 8 so far here.

In some ways, the storm may serve as a wake-up call to those of us who have become somewhat complacent about severe weather warnings. The day after the storm, I visited with residents of Parkersburg and New Hartford and toured the damage, along with Senator HARKIN and Governor Culver, and Congressman BRALEY was there. It was an unimaginable scene.

In Parkersburg, the tornado ripped apart the Aplington-Parkersburg High School. This is a picture of that devastating damage. It will cost \$14 million to rebuild. Thank God they were well insured, I have been told. I haven't heard that directly but indirectly.

It destroyed the Parkersburg City Hall, crushed the town's only gas station, and crumbled the grocery store. If you watched CNN yesterday, you were able to find some pictures from the cameras that guard the bank during the night and over the weekend, and you saw, before they went blank, sucking everything up. And you know where a lot of those bank papers landed, and a lot of pictures from various homes? In Prairie Du Chien, WI, 100

miles away. And those people in Prairie Du Chien, we are told by television, are collecting all those valuables and are someday going to bring them back to Parkersburg, IA.

In the afternoon of this tragedy, seven people sought refuge and survived by going to a produce cooler in one of the restaurants there. That is just one example of what people do. So more life could have been taken. I have been told by some people that as the Weather Bureau or the government agencies that measure this stuff and tracked the storm, that this damage to 220 homes in Parkersburg, IA, could have been done in just a few seconds, like 20, 30 seconds. Some people on the scene said it had to be less than 45 seconds. But in just a few minutes or a few seconds, whatever you want to say, a mile-wide tornado wiped away a lifetime of treasured belongings, furniture, and family memorabilia. There are no parts of homes sitting around. There is only sticks sitting around, and a lot of that landed in farm fields miles away. There are uprooted trees. There is not a tree with a leaf, maybe a limb or two. The trunk maybe still stands, or maybe the trunk is down. We have mangled vehicles. Some people didn't know where their vehicle ended up. Maybe today they do, but they didn't a week after the storm, they told me. It killed a lot of livestock in the rural areas, ripped away roofs and walls, mowed down neighborhoods, shredded solidly built homes like toothpicks, and knocked out the city's infrastructure.

I saw this debris. I am told that there were 60,000 tons in Parkersburg alone left behind in the wake of the tornado. I suppose that is a rough guesstimate, but the people who know about the tragedy know how to estimate some of this stuff. This picture of the high school, once again, probably isn't the best picture I could produce about how much of a wilderness the southern half of this small town is, and I don't think this captures the wreckage, but it is a small glimpse. It is nearly inconceivable to understand the awesome force of Mother Nature.

Thankfully, the resiliency and the compassion of human nature also has proven that it can withstand floods and droughts and famines, and so it shall be in my home State. After seeing the devastation firsthand, it still made me wonder that the fatalities have thus far been kept in single digits considering that 70 people were hospitalized. And I commend the emergency preparedness plans put into action by city and county authorities and during the storm. The civil defense people came from the adjoining counties without hardly even being called to come. They knew we needed help. And thanks to the warning systems, countless lives were saved.

In fact, rising above the call of duty, volunteer firefighters in my hometown of New Hartford raced up and down the streets after the power had gone out

alerting people with their vehicle sirens, just to show their commitment to letting everybody know that just a few minutes away was a terrible weapon of destruction.

Exactly 1 week after the storm blazed its trail through the region, I returned to Parkersburg. I am pleased to report relief and recovery efforts underway. I saw fire departments coming up to serve the community and the surrounding communities from 100 miles away—the suburbs of Des Moines, IA, is an example.

I hope you know there is a great deal of resilience in the people of Parkersburg and New Hartford. Like a beacon of hope, I want to show you where people were, what they were doing 6 days after this tornado hit through. This doesn't give justice to all the debris that still has not been picked up, but there were people constructing new buildings right away. Except for a generation of trees being gone—because 25 years from now you will be able to go down this 43 miles and you are going to know where this tornado went—except for that, Parkersburg and these other communities will be back in a few months. I give this as evidence of the resilience of the people, only 6 days after this damage took place.

The cleanup operation, of course, will take a long time. Bulky machinery will do the heaviest lifting. That is after people have an opportunity to paw through all of the strewn things that are there, so they can take out some of their valuables in the sense of remembrances—pictures, photographs, maybe some important documents they might find. There may be some of those important documents up in Prairie Duchene.

The scoreboard for this high school ended up 70 miles in Decorah, IA, as an example. Maybe it was part of the scoreboard, but this tells you how it is.

It is going to take countless hours of manpower to orchestrate this massive undertaking to get the job done. The seemingly impossible task is being made possible, thanks to the tireless commitments of Butler County's first responders, administrators, emergency crews, and legions of volunteers, but in addition to my county, counties around it. You can't believe the number of trucks that came in Sunday to haul away debris, as an example.

We have had the donation of food, water, clothing, and other supplies poured into the tornado-ravaged region. I wish to mention a few notable examples of neighbors and strangers lending a hand during the recovery week. There is no count of construction crews and heavy equipment volunteers coming in from as far as Tennessee. I have thanked Senator CORKER. I have not thanked Senator ALEXANDER yet, for people coming all way from Tennessee with very heavy equipment. People who were cleaning up from tornadoes in Oklahoma the night before spent the night on the road to come up and help people in Parkersburg, IA.

Separately, we had a group of traveling volunteers known as the Massage Emergency Response Team from California—people who are physical therapists who came in to rub the backs of people working day and night. They offer assistance to those who need stress and tension relief from their recovery work.

We had a group of 90 high school students, mostly football players from the Catholic high school, Dowling, in Des Moines, traveling 100 miles to help with the recovery work at the Aplington-Parkersburg High School athletic fields. If you want to know how this little town of 200 is proud of its football team, this little town has four NFL players, right now—I mean not right now today playing football, but still signed up. These Dowling High School people pitched in to rake up glass and debris.

The Salvation Army has set up mobile canteens serving 1,000 hot meals each day to the Parkersburg residents and relief residents, and in New Hartford as well. And the Red Cross, as you would expect because of their good reputation, was immediately on the job and is still present.

The tornado, storm, and flood damage over Memorial Day weekend in Iowa has received Federal declaration of disaster assistance, and people have come in from FEMA, from Sacramento, CA; from Pennsylvania and from New Jersey; maybe from a lot of other places that I had a chance to meet on that Sunday afternoon. So the Federal people are working well, as they should.

Residents in these communities will need help rebuilding and I know Iowans appreciate that help. So I am here to say thank you to everybody.

I listed only a few people. If I knew everybody who was helping out, there wouldn't be any help there. You can't keep on top of everybody who is stressing out. When I was in church in Cedar Falls, IA, one Sunday we had people there from North Carolina—Franklin Graham. We had people there from the Billy Graham organization in Minneapolis.

Looking out across the countryside near my home, our corner of the world looks turned upside down. Utility polls, shingles, siding, insulation, uprooted trees are strewn across the farm fields. The cleanup will take time, but I know Iowans are in this for the long haul. I and other Grassleys were fortunate in this damage, because I live 1½ miles south of where the tornado went through on a farm. My son and grandson farm with me. They live a mile and a half north of where the tornado went through. I thank God for that.

We lost friends. A person named Norman who worked at the New Hartford grain elevator will not be there because he was killed in this tornado. So Norman, who always greeted us when we would go to the elevator to unload our grain in the fall—his friendly face will be missed.

The outpouring of support from neighbors, friends, and strangers from near and far has given a jump-start to the necessary healing process. It underscores the decency of human nature rising above catastrophic forces of Mother Nature. The selfless sacrifice by literally scores of heroes will help mend the immeasurable heartbreak and hurts that I saw during my visits to these communities.

I say with gladness in my own heart, the F5 tornado did not extinguish the hope and pride of residents of the mid-western communities who call Parkersburg, New Hartford, Hazleton, and Dunkerton home.

I suppose maybe it is a little bit ambitious on my part to take the floor of the Senate to acknowledge this and to praise the Lord for what can be done now, and the people who have not been hurt. I suppose every one of my colleagues, particularly in the tornado channel that I most often hear about, of Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and I guess yesterday damage around here as well—maybe every Senator could tell the story I tell. But, frankly, tornadoes are not as common in my State as they are in these other States and there is a lesson to be learned from this. There is an appreciation to be learned from it. We all ought to remember how lucky—and then we need to remember how unlucky—some people and families are, in our daily life.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I too ask unanimous consent that I might be allowed to speak for as much time as I might consume.

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

THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I will want to sympathize with the Senator from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY. Two weeks before Hurricane Katrina, a tornado came through the town of Wright, WY, which is 30 miles south of the town I live in. It happened to be during a recess so I got to go out there and see what had happened and see what kind of response there was and see what the Government is supposed to do and what they do do. What I was most impressed with is the spirit of community, the way the people got right after it and started cleaning up and helping each other out. People poured in from towns and other States to help.

It is a great country we live in, where people will do that and help out where it isn't any concern of theirs. But they recognize that is what we do in America. I think that is a difference from many other countries, too. I appreciate your sharing that with us.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the legislation we have been de-

bating and that we are going to be precluded from debating, should cloture happen tomorrow. The reason I say precluded from debating is we are not being allowed to do any amendments. The whole stage has been set: One amendment so far; it is a take-it-or-leave-it amendment. My experience in the 11½ years I have been around here is that bills that come to us that way do not pass.

That is what the whole Senate was designed for, to see that take-it-or-leave-it stuff doesn't make it through here, that the opinions of 100 people get to be reflected in legislation. The longer we are here, the quicker we think we ought to be able to get bills done. The longer we are here, the more complicated the issues. This is a very complicated issue. There are things people are doing. There are things people need to be doing. But to make it very prescriptive and to not allow the opinions of 100 people who could point out some of the flaws and some ways it could be better is wrong.

The majority leader and a number of Members on the other side have called climate change the "greatest environmental threat facing our world." I am not hearing big arguments against that. But if that is the case, we should put our heads together and come up with a plan to protect us from this massive threat. We should spend time amending it, ironing out any problems, and determining what we will have to pay.

There is a huge disconnect in America, thinking that we can solve this problem and it will not cost the consumer anything. We are actually promulgating that myth here, now. I heard the fuel economy we are going to get is going to offset any of the costs. I know a few guys out there who are getting ahold of me on a regular basis because they drive trucks. They do contract work. I am pretty sure they didn't put a little clause in there that gave them a fuel escalation break. Some of the big companies might have thought of that. The little companies didn't. So far as I can tell, they are not planning on trading that truck in for a more fuel-efficient truck because they can't afford to do that. New trucks cost more money. They have a contract that limits what they can do. So the offset is not going to pay to the person who is paying the bill. It may go to somebody else.

We do need to encourage better mileage. We need to encourage less travel—although somebody the other day pointed out to me that if we have less travel—for instance, if I rode my bike back and forth from home to work, although I usually walk, that consumes calories. And to replace those calories, I have to eat food. And that food probably is transported in somehow, so I am still adding to the climate problem. It is not solving it just by doing some alternatives. I hadn't thought about that.

But what I am talking about tonight is that the debate has been shut down;

the amendment tree has been filled. That means a little parliamentary procedure around here has already put some amendments, with relatively insignificant changes in them, so nobody else can bring up an amendment and have it voted on. It is getting to be a very common thing around here.

Now, I understand partly why it is being done. The majority has had two people out on the Presidential campaign trail, and now Senator KENNEDY is not able to be with us. That is the loss of three votes. It is a 51-to-49 Senate. So I sympathize with the leader in trying to control votes when some of the people are not here, because with our one Presidential candidate gone and three of their people gone, it winds up with a tie. I have noticed the Vice President usually votes with me.

But what we are trying to do, I think around here, is get bills done and get them done in a logical process and actually finish them. But I do not think that is what we are doing. The amendment tree got filled. The greatest threat of our time, the greatest deliberative body is not allowed to deliberate, to be deliberative. Something is wrong with that picture.

Now, I have some amendments that are important. I think they are important to anybody who might be listening, especially my colleagues. Do not think that not paying attention to or being interested in politics is going to shield anyone from the consequence of this bill if it were to pass. It could change our way of life. The bill is going to cost money, and you have a right to know how much it is going to cost you.

I filed an amendment that requires utilities to include on the bill they send you, the consumers, the amount it is costing to comply with this legislation.

I would like to take a look at a part of the bill that is very significant for Wyoming residents; that is the coal portion. Coal is our Nation's most important and abundant energy source. Wyoming's coal is the cleanest coal in the Nation. We ship to every State in the Nation.

They mix it with their coal to meet the clean air standards. I want the lights to stay on in Wyoming and the rest of the Nation. California relies heavily on electricity from Wyoming. Without coal, that is not going to happen.

Now, China understands energy. China understands that the future economy of the world depends on energy. They have already bought all the oil supply, they have bought up gas supplies, they are in the process of buying up coal supplies.

How do I know about that? They are buying coal in Campbell County, WY, and shipping it to China. Now, a lot of it is in the test burn stage, and I suspect they may be burning that in the powerplants right around Beijing, which will clean their air for the Olympics.

I do not know how long the contracts are, and I do not know how expensive it