

XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2082, Intelligence Authorization Act.

John D. Rockefeller, IV, Dianne Feinstein, Kent Conrad, E. Benjamin Nelson, Russell D. Feingold, Barbara A. Mikulski, Ron Wyden, Ken Salazar, Mark Pryor, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Frank R. Lautenberg, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Harry Reid, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of S. 2248.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I just finished a conference with the distinguished Republican leader, and we both believe this is the best way to go. We will, at some time, finish the intelligence conference report one way or the other, and following that, we will likely move to the Indian health bill to try to complete that.

We have had a productive day. It is my understanding there are only two speakers left on the FISA legislation, and that is Senator DODD and Senator SPECTER. If there are others, they should notify the cloakroom forthwith.

We have eight votes we are going to do tomorrow, and staff is working on a consent to get to those votes. If we finish them, regardless, it would be better if we do this by consent. We are going to start the votes early in the morning. There will be no morning business tomorrow. We have eight votes to do tomorrow and complete a lot of talk on this bill, and that way we can send it to the House very quickly and they will come back and tell us something, we hope, by the end of the week.

We all hope it is not necessary that we have an extension, but time will tell.

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. REID. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes S. 2248 on Tuesday morning, February 12, the sequence of votes on remaining amendments occur in the following order: Whitehouse 3920, subject to a 60-vote threshold; Feinstein 3910, subject to a 60-vote threshold; Feingold 3979; Dodd 3907; Feingold 3912;

Bond-Rockefeller 3938, as modified; Specter-Whitehouse 3927; Feinstein 3919, with a 60-vote threshold; and that each leader control a total of 10 minutes of debate time to be used prior to any of the votes; that the provisions of the previous order governing debate limitations and vote limitations remain in effect.

We are going to do as many of these as we can before the weekly party conferences. With a little bit of luck, we can finish all of them.

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

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 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.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the Banking Committee's action on S. 2062, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007. Senator SHELBY and I agreed to discharge this bill from the Banking Committee, with an amendment, to help move the bill along.

This legislation reauthorizes the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act, NAHASDA, which provides critical funds for housing Native Americans who suffer significant and unique housing problems. According to HUD data, almost one-third of Native Americans have severe housing burdens. They live in overcrowded conditions, lack basic plumbing and utilities, or pay over half of their income for their housing costs. NAHASDA is the primary way that Indian tribes are assisted in addressing these critical housing needs.

The amendment drafted by Senator SHELBY and I includes a provision to clarify that this bill should not interfere with ongoing court cases regarding funding allocations. I want to acknowledge the contributions of Senators TESTER and ENZI in working on this provision. In addition, the amendment helps to retain the requirements that funds be used for those Native Americans in the worst housing situations and that funds continue to be used to increase affordable housing opportunities.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly pass S. 2062 as amended.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has now been nearly 10 months since the horrific incident at Virginia Tech resulted in the tragic deaths of 32 students and faculty members, and serious injuries to many other innocent victims. During that time, we have witnessed a barrage of new incidents involving threatening conduct and, too often, deadly acts of violence at our schools and college campuses nationwide.

Just in the last few days tragedy has struck at one of our Nation's high schools and on a university campus. Today's press reports indicate that a student at Mitchell High School in Memphis, TN, is in critical condition after a violent incident in the school's cafeteria. Just this past Friday, a female student killed two other women, and then herself, inside a classroom on the campus of Louisiana Technical College in Baton Rouge. This terrible incident could easily have been even more deadly: there were nearly 20 people in the classroom at the time.

The Senate has so far failed to take up and pass the School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act of 2007, S. 2084, which the Judiciary Committee reported last September to help improve school safety. This comprehensive legislation should be considered and passed without further delay.

In originating the bill over 6 months ago, the Judiciary Committee showed deference to Governor Tim Kaine and the task forces at work in Virginia, and sought to complement their work and recommendations. Working with several Senators, including Senators BOXER, REED, SPECTER, FEINGOLD, SCHUMER, and DURBIN, the committee originated this bill and reported it at the start of the 2007 academic year. My hope was that Congress would adopt these critical school safety improvements last fall.

Since this bill passed out of the Judiciary Committee, we have seen tragedy at Louisiana Technical College, Delaware State, University of Memphis, SuccessTech Academy in Cleveland, OH, as well as incidents in California, New York, Pennsylvania, and Oregon, to name just a few. I, again, urge the Senate to proceed to consider this comprehensive package of school safety measures. It includes sensible yet effective safety improvement measures supported by law enforcement across the country. We should be doing all that we can to help.

Last October, a troubled student wearing a Fred Flintstone mask and carrying a rifle through campus was arrested at St. John's University in Queens, NY, prompting authorities to lock down the campus for 3 hours. The day after that incident, an armed 17-

year-old on the other side of the country in Oroville, CA, held students hostage at Las Plumas High School, also resulting in a lock-down. Around that same time, an armed student suspected of plotting a Columbine-style attack on fellow high school students was arrested in Norristown, PA. The students in these situations were lucky and escaped without injury.

University of Memphis student Taylor Bradford was not so lucky. He was killed on campus last September in what university officials believe was a targeted attack. He was 21 years old. Shalita Middleton was not so lucky. She died last October from injuries she sustained during the Delaware State incident. She was 17 years old. Nathaniel Pew was not so lucky. He was wounded at Delaware State. High school teachers Michael Grassie and David Kachadourian and students Michael Peek and Darnell Rodgers—all of whom were wounded by a troubled student at SuccessTech Academy last October—were not so lucky. And the two female students killed this past Friday in Baton Rouge were not so lucky.

The School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act responds directly to incidents like these by addressing the problem of violence in our schools in several ways. The bill authorizes Federal assistance for programs to improve the safety and security of our schools and institutions of higher education, provides equitable benefits to law enforcement serving those institutions including bulletproof vests, and funds pilot programs to develop cutting-edge prevention and intervention programs for our schools. The bill also clarifies and strengthens two existing statutes—the Terrorist Hoax Improvements Act and the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act—which are designed to improve public safety.

Specifically, the bill would improve the safety and security of students both at the elementary and secondary school level and on college and university campuses. The K-12 improvements are drawn from a bill that Senator BOXER introduced last April, and I want to thank Senator BOXER for her hard work on this issue. The improvements include increased funding for much-needed infrastructure changes to improve security as well as the establishment of hotlines and tip-lines, which will enable students to report potentially dangerous situations to school administrators before they occur.

These improvements can save lives. After the four students and teachers were wounded at SuccessTech Academy, the press reported that parents had been petitioning to get a metal detector installed and additional security personnel added, and that the guard who was previously assigned to the school had been removed 3 years ago. In fact, at the time, the entire city of Cleveland had just 10 metal detectors that rotated throughout the city's

more than 100 schools. Title I of the bill would enhance the ability of school districts to apply for and receive grant money to fund the installation of metal detectors and the training and hiring of security personnel to keep our kids safe.

To address the new realities of campus safety in the wake of Virginia Tech and more recent college incidents, title I also creates a matching grant program for campus safety and security to be administered out of the COPS Office of the Department of Justice. The grant program would allow institutions of higher education to apply, for the first time, directly for Federal funds to make school safety and security improvements. The program is authorized to be appropriated at \$50,000,000 for the next 2 fiscal years. While this amounts to just \$3 per student each year, it will enable schools to more effectively respond to dangerous situations on campus.

The bill would also make sworn law enforcement officers who work for private institutions of higher education and rail carriers eligible for death and disability benefits, and for funds administered under the Byrne Grant program and the bulletproof vest partnership grant program. Providing this equitable treatment is in the best interest of our Nation's educators and students and will serve to place the support of the Federal Government behind the dedicated law enforcement officers who serve and protect private colleges and universities nationwide. I commend Senator JACK REED for his leadership in this area.

The bill helps law enforcement by making improvements to the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2003, LEOSA. These amendments to existing law will streamline the system by which qualified retired and active officers can be certified under LEOSA. It serves us all when we permit qualified officers, with a demonstrated commitment to law enforcement and no adverse employment history, to protect themselves, their families, and their fellow citizens wherever those officers may be.

The bill focuses on prevention as well, by incorporating the PRE-CAUTION Act at the request of Senators FEINGOLD and SPECTER. This provision authorizes grants to develop prevention and intervention programs for our schools.

Finally, the bill incorporates the Terrorist Hoax Improvements Act of 2007, at the request of Senator KEN-NEDY.

The Senate should move forward and act. The Virginia Tech Review Panel—a body commissioned by Governor Kaine to study the Virginia Tech tragedy—recently issued its findings based on a 4-month long investigation of the incident and its aftermath. This bill would adopt a number of recommendations from the Review Panel aimed at improving school safety. We must not miss this opportunity to implement

these initiatives nationwide, and to take concrete steps to ensure the safety of our kids. I hope the Senate will promptly move forward to invest in the safety of our students and better support law enforcement officers across the country by considering and passing the School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act of 2007.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT LEE MYUNG-BAK

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, in just 2 weeks President-elect Lee Myung-bak will be inaugurated as the next President of South Korea. His inauguration offers a fresh opportunity to reaffirm and reinvigorate the U.S.-South Korea relationship for a new era.

The U.S.-ROK alliance has been a remarkably strong and successful one. Forged in blood during the Korean war more than a half-century ago, the alliance has sustained itself through the crucible of the cold war and remains central to U.S. security policy in East Asia. Our bonds have only deepened through the extensive social and cultural ties that have formed between our two countries, including 100,000 Americans who live in Korea, and the 2 million Korean-Americans who enrich our society through their classic American ethic of hard work, strong families, and tight-knit church communities.

Nonetheless, I do not think it is an overstatement to say that the U.S.-Korea relationship has been adrift in recent years. At the heart of it have been our respective approaches to North Korea. The Bush administration has been divided within itself on how to deal with Pyongyang, branding it a member of the “Axis of Evil” and refusing bilateral discussions with it before subsequently reversing course. This unsteady approach not only has allowed North Korea to expand its nuclear arsenal as it has resumed reprocessing of plutonium and tested a nuclear device. It also has understandably caused anxiety in South Korea, as its leaders and people have tried to figure out what the Bush administration policy is.

I have no illusions about North Korea, and we must be firm and unyielding in our commitment to a nonnuclear Korean peninsula. In the process we must pay attention to the interests of the South Korean people to ensure that we move forward in unity and common purpose.

The U.S.-Korea economic relationship has also benefited both nations and deepened our ties. I look forward as well to supporting ways to increase our bilateral trade and investment ties through agreements paying proper attention to our key industries and agricultural sectors, such as autos, rice, and beef, and to protection of labor and environmental standards. Regrettably,