

Cole. Of course, on September 11, 2001, 19 hijackers killed 3,000 Americans in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

What is clear from all this is that terrorists were at war with us long before we were at war with them. But then, after 9/11, the Northern Alliance and U.S. forces, along with our allies, took the fight to al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan. Coalition forces later toppled Saddam Hussein and subsequently mounted a successful counterinsurgency against al-Qaida in Iraq that continues to this day. The supplemental we will consider this week funds all those efforts, and it provides vital assistance to Pakistan in its ongoing battle against insurgents.

One of the more contentious issues that has arisen in the course of this protracted fight is the fate of captured terrorists. Since 9/11, the United States has captured hundreds of terrorists who wish to harm Americans. Many of them have been brought to the secure detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Current inmates include some of the key conspirators in the Embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, as well as Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the mastermind of the attack on the USS Cole. Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, is also there, as are a number of his 9/11 conspirators.

Guantanamo was established to house terrorists such as these—dangerous men who pose a serious threat to Americans. The fact that we have not been attacked at home since 9/11 confirms, in my view, the fact that this facility, when taken together with all our other efforts in the global fight against terrorism, has been a success.

There is no doubt that some of the men who are held at Guantanamo are eager to launch new attacks against us. Of those who have been released from Guantanamo, about 12 percent have returned to the battlefield. One of these men is currently a top al-Qaida deputy in Yemen. Another is the Taliban's operations commander in southern Afghanistan. These are men who were thought to be safe for transfer.

More recently, the Defense Department has confirmed that 18 former detainees have returned to the battlefield and that at least 40 more are suspected of having done so. Earlier this year, the Saudi Government said that nearly a dozen Saudis who were released from Gitmo are believed to have returned to terrorism. This is a good reason to keep these men at Guantanamo until the administration can present us with a plan for keeping terrorists off the battlefield.

Some have argued that the existence of the Guantanamo prison serves as a recruiting tool for terrorists. But it is hard to imagine that moving this facility somewhere else and giving it a different name will somehow satisfy our critics in European capitals. Even less likely is the notion that by moving detainees from the coast of Cuba to Colo-

rado, terrorists overseas will turn their swords into plowshares.

The global terror network we are fighting targeted and killed Americans long before 9/11 and long before we opened the gates of Guantanamo. Shutting this facility now could only serve one end; that is, to make Americans less safe than Guantanamo.

The supplemental spending bill that the Senate votes on this week will fund an effort to combat terrorism that has been hard fought. We have seen victories and we have seen setbacks and keeping detainees off the battlefield is part of the battle. Al-Qaida's terrorist networks remain vital and lethal, and releasing detainees to return to terror in places such as Yemen would be at cross-purposes with the underlying bill itself. If we are committed to funding the global fight against terrorism, then we will come up with a good alternative to Guantanamo before we move to close it.

The administration has shown a willingness to change course on other matters of national security. It is my hope that it will show a similar willingness on Guantanamo. As the Senate considers this supplemental, we will have an opportunity to encourage such a shift in their thinking by expressing our opposition to closing Guantanamo until a good alternative emerges. This is the only way to ensure the same level of safety that Guantanamo has delivered and the supplemental itself is intended to promote.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, I would like to speak briefly on the credit card legislation which we are going to be taking up in a minute.

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

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

CREDIT CARD REFORM

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, in these trying economic times, far too many Americans have had to watch their hard-earned financial security evaporate almost overnight.

Rising unemployment, rampant foreclosures, and shrinking market liquidity continue to run roughshod over American families. For some, credit cards have become a last line of defense.

Responsible spending on credit has helped millions of ordinary people pay bills and keep food on the table even as the economy continues to deteriorate.

I rise today in support of these hard-working Americans.

The need for credit card reform is crucial, and the time to act is now. We must pass the Credit CARD Act of 2009 without delay.

As credit availability tightens, the final wall of support is crumbling. At the slightest provocation, many credit card companies have chosen to take advantage of families in distress with unfair interest rates and drastic new fees.

Some people are suddenly confronted with a choice between large annual premiums or excessive rate hikes.

A Chicagoan, Mr. Weatherspoon bought a home several years ago and soon ran into some unexpected expenses. To consolidate his home repair bills that totaled over \$12,000, Mr. Weatherspoon applied for a credit card to take advantage of a low introductory offer of 4.5 percent.

Without notice, that low rate jumped to 28 percent. And he has been paying it off ever since. Over the last 8 years, Mr. Weatherspoon has paid the bank \$15,000, but has only reduced his principal balance by \$800.

These companies can change the terms of a contract at a moment's notice and without providing any reason at all.

This allows them to maximize their profits while keeping American families mired in more than \$950 billion worth of debt.

We cannot stand by as honest, responsible people fall victim to these predatory tactics.

We must not allow millions of Americans to be tricked and cheated as they struggle to make ends meet. Consumers are demanding relief, and it is our duty to provide it.

There is no place for that kind of greed in this new economy. There is no place for rising interest rates and record profits at the expense of good working people.

Now, as never before, we must move with urgency to shield American wage earners against exploitation and ensure that everyone gets a fair deal. This is especially true of those in need, and it is on their behalf that I address this Chamber today.

That is why I support the Credit CARD Act of 2009. This bipartisan legislation will give us the tools to fix a system that allows corporate giants to abuse their customers.

It will bring accountability back to the market and strengthen oversight. It will end abusive practices like hidden fees and sudden rate hikes.

Young consumers will be shielded by a provision that requires an adult to share in every new credit card agreement.

Companies will be required to use plain language instead of manipulative fine print, ending the predatory bait-and-switch tactics that got us into this mess.

Quite simply, this bill will restore fairness, honesty and plain old common sense to the credit card industry.

It will stop companies from changing the rules in the middle of the game,

but it will do nothing to reward irresponsible spenders or penalize companies that operate in good faith. This is essential legislation at a time when the stakes could not be any higher.

We must move quickly to halt unfair and abusive practices that threaten our financial security. America has had enough, and it is time that the members of this Senate stand with our fellow citizens to say that we, too, have had enough.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in passing the Credit CARD Act. We will be voting shortly. Let's pass this bill.

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. BROWN. 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.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for no more than 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, 15 years ago I sat on the Energy and Commerce Committee in the House of Representatives and listened to seven tobacco executives. It was a famous photograph of these seven tobacco executives who raised their right hands and swore to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. They were there to defend their practices and swear under oath that cigarettes and nicotine were not addictive. The president of Philip Morris said, "I believe nicotine is not addictive." The chairman and CEO of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company said, "Cigarettes and nicotine clearly do not meet the classic definition of addiction." The president of U.S. Tobacco, the chairman and CEO of Liggett Group, and the chairman and CEO of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation all said, "I believe that nicotine is not addictive." I listened as the president and CEO of American Tobacco said, "I, too, believe nicotine is not addictive."

During that hearing, we heard repeatedly that 400,000 Americans die of tobacco-related illnesses; 400,000 Americans every year, more than a thousand people a day, die of tobacco-related illnesses. It occurred to me—as these CEOs raised their right hands, all seven of them in a row, and said tobacco is not addictive, cigarettes aren't addictive—it occurred to me why they were saying that. Simply, if 400,000 of their customers are dying every year, more than 1,000 a day, they need at least 400,000 new customers every year, at least 1,000 a day. So if they are going to

get those 400,000 customers, my guess is they are not going to convince the Senator from Illinois—the junior Senator or the senior Senator from Illinois—they are not going to convince me, they are not going to convince most of us who are in our forties, fifties, and sixties to start smoking. They are more likely to aim at the pages who are sitting here who are 15, 16, 17 years old. They are more likely to go after children.

In fact, the Cancer Action Network, the American Cancer Society, did an ad today: 98,000 kids have smoked their first cigarette in the last month. That is why the cigarette companies, the tobacco companies have introduced products such as Camel Orbs, Sticks, and Strips that are aimed at children. That is why they did the Camel No. 9, a very attractive package, trying to get women to smoke; Joe Camel; billboards—until we outlawed them—right by high school campuses and high school buildings.

The fact is, 400,000 Americans die every year from tobacco-related illnesses. Tobacco companies need 400,000 new customers just to break even, just to stay in business. They aim at our children. They go after children who are 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 years old. That is why, under Chairman KENNEDY's leadership with Chairman DODD, today the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will begin its deliberations on finally changing the way we regulate tobacco, giving the authority to the Food and Drug Administration. It is the right way to go. By this time on Thursday, I hope, certainly by Friday, we should have legislation voted out of that committee, ready to take action. It is about time this body stood up to the tobacco interests and did what is right for our children.

I yield the floor and 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.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Thank you, Madam President.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I know we are trying to finalize the debate on the underlying credit card improvement bill and support for consumers with personal credit cards. But I thought I would take a moment to come to the floor to speak to the fact that this week is Small Business Week in America. All over our country we

are celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of the over 26 million small businesses in America that serve as a backbone of our economy.

Just yesterday, I was with Administrator Karen Mills of the Small Business Administration, as she opened Small Business Week at one of the local hotels here, where there are hundreds of small business owners receiving awards from all our States for the extraordinary work they have done in opening, starting, and building their businesses, at even these challenging times. In a few minutes, I will be joining her for lunch, as we hand out awards to some of the most innovative small businesses in the world today, not just in America but in the world. It is exciting that many of these small business owners are with us in Washington this week.

So I have come to the floor to speak about our business owners, some of the challenges they are facing, and to acknowledge there will be a resolution we are asking to be cleared this week in honor of these millions of firms.

I say to the Presiding Officer, as you know, Main Street firms pump almost \$1 trillion into our economy every year, creating two-thirds of all new jobs, and account for more than half America's workforce. Sometimes when people see corporations and businesses and they read the headlines about General Motors, GE, or other large companies—Exxon, Shell come to mind—those are good examples of national and international companies, but they are not necessarily examples of where all the jobs are, contrary to common belief.

The jobs are hard to see sometimes because they are in small places; in neighborhoods and on main streets and farm roads and on farm-to-market roads throughout our country; they are with small entrepreneurs employing themselves and maybe two or three other people or themselves and maybe 10 or 15 other people. They are building the backbone of the American free enterprise system.

These are the family businesses throughout the country whose thread still weaves the American dream—the dream of working for yourself, being your own boss, setting your own hours, never working less than you would probably at a large company, always working more but being quite rewarding, with a business you can pass down to your children and grandchildren who earn their way in the business. This is what keeps the spirit of America going forward.

These are the businesses we honor this week. They are the technological startups that produce cutting-edge, clean energy sources, lifesaving medical advances, and provide safer equipment for our troops, protecting our way of life. They are the construction companies that build new schools and better homes and businesses that fix our roads and our bridges.