

It would be funded not by taxpayers but instead through the user fees paid by foreign tourists and in-kind contributions by corporate partners. It is something that is absolutely needed. Foreign tourism is a huge source of revenues to States such as Florida and the leader's State of Nevada. It is something that I think is long overdue. So passing this bill today will be a great accomplishment for our Nation, and it will be a tremendous boon to a tourism economy that is reeling in these recessionary times. It will make me awfully happy that this will be something I can sort of button up my Senate career with, a good bill for Florida and a good bill for the people of Florida today unemployed in the tourism industry.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ

Mr. REID. Before my friend leaves the floor, I was planning to come later with some prepared remarks, but let me speak from my heart about the Senator from Florida.

I have some affinity for the Senator from Florida because we were both trial lawyers. We have been to court, we have voir dired juries, we have argued cases to juries. We were both trial lawyers. I feel that as a badge of honor. Some people denigrate trial lawyers. But I feel that the people whom I have tried to help over the years were people who deserved to be helped.

My friend from Florida was the president of the State trial lawyers in Florida. He has a tremendously sound reputation as a trial lawyer, somebody who took good cases, worked them hard, judges liked him, and his opponents liked him, which speaks well of this man.

But my feelings about Senator MARTINEZ go deeper than that. I have had the good fortune of being able to attend our prayer breakfasts on occasion here. I try to get to them as often as I can, every Wednesday morning when we are in session, at 8 o'clock.

I have heard my friend from Florida talk about his upbringing, his faith. He is a devout Catholic. He is proud of that. He is very proud of his heritage, Cuban American, versus the difficulties that have been caused by the tyrannical government of Fidel Castro.

I also am impressed with Senator MARTINEZ as a result of his family ties. He speaks so highly of his relationship with his lovely wife. I have had the opportunity to know his family. On rare occasions he came and asked me if there was a way I could help him with a family member, recognizing the kind of person he is and the family associations that he has.

The people of the State of Florida are losing a good Senator, a good man. I will miss MEL MARTINEZ.

#### ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that today the Senate recess from 3 to 4 p.m. in order for Members to participate in the 9/11 remembrance ceremony in Statuary Hall.

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

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time from 4 to 4:45 p.m. today be divided as follows: 22½ minutes to be divided equally between Senators DORGAN and the Republican leader or his designee, for debate with the respect to S. 1023, and that upon the use of that time, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Cass Sunstein, and that the remaining 22½ minutes until 4:45 be equally divided and controlled between Senator LIEBERMAN and the Republican leader or his designee; that at 4:45 p.m. the Senate resume legislative session and all postcloture time having expired, all amendments be withdrawn except the Dorgan amendment No. 1347, and that amendment No. 1347 then be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of S. 1023, as amended; that upon passage of S. 1023, as amended, the Senate then resume executive session and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Cass Sunstein.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll of the Senate.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT OF 2009—Continued

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I hoped that my colleague from North Dakota might be here, and perhaps we will still get together before the debate concludes on the tourism bill. But I think we were two ships passing in the night earlier today. He was quoting statistics that had to do with individual people. I was quoting statistics that had to do with monetary receipts. We were both getting at the problem of whether tourism was up or down, and I told him I would get the source of my statistics and we could reengage in that debate.

The primary point the Senator from North Dakota was making was that from his statistics, relating to the number of people, tourism was down. I had asserted that based upon Com-

merce Department statistics tourism receipts were very much up. So let me quote the statistics from the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries at the Commerce Department for 2008. I quote:

Total travel receipts reached unprecedented levels in 2008, with a record-breaking \$142.1 billion on travel to, and tourism-related activities, within the United States—an increase of 16 percent over the previous record set in 2007.

That is what I had quoted earlier today.

The Senator from North Dakota said: Well, my statistics show that tourism is down. I think he was quoting numbers of tourists. I do not know whether that discrepancy is real. I do not question his statistics, but I did want to verify mine come from the Department of Commerce. Presumably they are valid.

He had also raised a question as to whether that includes travel from Mexico and Canada. My understanding is, yes, this statistic does include receipts for travel and tourism for all travelers to the United States, which would include Mexico and Canada.

Also, according to a press release and information that was gathered by the Senate Republican policy committee, the Commerce Department's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries also issued a travel forecast in May of 2009 that foreign travel will reach a record high of 64 million travelers to the United States by the year 2013. Again, that includes travel from all countries, which would include Mexico and Canada.

The Commerce Department also estimates that travel to the United States by visitors from countries other than Mexico and Canada should rebound by 2012. The point is that through a series of situations, including, primarily economic conditions, there has been a lower level of travel after 2008 by overseas travelers.

This Commerce Department forecast also said, as I said earlier today, it is important to continue to work on those initiatives which will facilitate visits by overseas travelers, including adequate infrastructure of ports of entry, visa services, and funding to make the online registration requirements for foreign visitors truly easy and operational.

My point earlier today was that rather than charging \$10 a visa for foreign travelers to come here to encourage more foreign tourism, which seemed to me to be rather counterproductive, and since there is plenty of travel promotion activity by the Department of Commerce, by States, by localities—you can hardly turn on the TV without seeing some community or State advertising, promoting tourism within its area—that what we should be doing is devoting any resources we have available for this purpose to improving the infrastructure at our ports of entry, our visa requirements, and other travel accommodations for those visitors who

do come here so it is easier to come here.

I would note I just read a story in the Arizona papers today that talked about the passport requirements from Mexico and Canada. They have been in effect for Mexico, but they are newly instituted with respect to Canada. As a result, theme parks in New York State, for example, had noted their activity from Canada was down somewhat. They attributed it to soggy weather, the state of the economy, and the additional passport requirement. I am sure all of these are factors.

So I suspect the statistics my colleague from North Dakota was citing were accurate statistics, as were, obviously, the ones I cited from the Department of Commerce.

The bottom line point I was trying to make is that we have a lot of people who come to this country. We make a lot of money from them. We want to encourage that, to be sure. But I did not think we were encouraging it when we put a \$10 fee on every visa for foreign tourists, and that we might want to—if we had that money available, or if we wanted to attract more visitors, the better way to do it would be to make our ports of entry and the other facilities by which people access entry to the United States more accommodating to them. Those were reasons I believed made this legislation unnecessary and unwise.

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

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

#### RECESS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, we can proceed to the recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will stand in recess until 4 p.m., pursuant to the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:59 p.m., recessed until 4 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BURRIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that the time that expires be equally charged to both sides.

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT OF 2009— Continued

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my understanding is that there is some time divided on the issue of the vote on the Travel Promotion Act, and let me take as much time as I may consume of that time.

Earlier today, Senator KYL and I had a discussion on the floor about some statistics and numbers about tourism and travel. I don't want him to try to win a debate we are not having because there ought not to be a difference with respect to a set of facts. So let me just recite the facts.

I said this morning that on this big-old planet of ours, people are traveling more. That is a fact. Tens of millions of people are traveling around the world for international tourism purposes, and that is very beneficial to the areas where they arrive and do their touring. On average, an overseas traveler who comes to the United States spends \$4,500. It is a very lucrative market to try to attract tourists from overseas to come to our country.

The dilemma is this: While more people are traveling all around the globe, and while Japan and Europe, while India and South America and many other countries and continents are aggressively advertising, asking people to come to their country, promoting their country's interests—I have mentioned France, Italy, Germany, India, China, and so on—all of them engaged in travel promotion saying: Come to our country, enjoy our country, come and see our country, travel to our country. It is a relentless bit of promotion by other countries, and they are very successful.

The fact is, more people have been traveling around the globe in international tourism, but we have had a reduction of 633,000 people coming to this country as compared to 9 years ago. Go back to the year 2000 and take a look at how many overseas travelers came to this country to see America and then fast forward to 2009. There are over half a million fewer people coming to our country.

This legislation we are going to vote on is very simple. It says: Let's have a private-public sector partnership that promotes America as a destination for international tourism.

In our earlier discussion, Senator KYL said we should be dealing with the entry process that many have complained about. The fact is, we are dealing with that. I have held hearings on that. We have substantially changed the waiting time for trying to get a visa to come to the United States. Yes, there were long lines, long waits, and much of that has been solved and reduced substantially. In fact, the State Department says that 90 percent of the consular posts have visa wait times of less than 30 days for students and business travelers, just as an example. We are making progress in those areas.

But we should not, in my judgment, allow this issue of promotion of foreign

and international travel be the province of other countries and not us. We ought to be involved. We ought to say to people: You are welcome to come to this country. I showed some of the newspaper reports in recent years that suggest to people: You are not welcome in America. Travel to America? No thanks. Too much of a hassle. In fact, after the terrible tragedy of 9/11/2001, we were not encouraging people to come to this country at all. In fact, we were suggesting that we were worried about people coming into this country. We wanted to make sure we were not allowing terrorists in, so we didn't exactly have the welcome mat out.

This legislation now, 8 years later, says: Let's put the welcome mat out to say, you know what, you want to compete for international tourism? So do we. You want to go see the Eiffel Tower? Well, that is fine. How about coming to see the Empire State Building, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Old Faithful, Yellowstone, Las Vegas, the Pembina Gorge. How about coming to America to understand the culture of America, the values, the character of America.

One of the things we understand is that when people come here to travel across the United States, they leave, having traveled in this country, with an unbelievably good impression about what America is. We know that because there has been a great deal of polling to understand it. So in addition to creating a very substantial number of jobs at a time when people have lost their jobs—and by the way, tourism and promotion of tourism, especially with overseas travelers who spend a lot of money when they come to this country, promotes a substantial number of jobs. In addition to that, it promotes dramatic good will all around the world about this country of ours.

So this legislation is very simple. It is bipartisan at a time when not very much is bipartisan. It actually saves money. At a time when there is concern about spending money, this reduces the budget deficit. It doesn't increase it; this actually reduces the budget deficit. At the same time, it will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. So how about that—a piece of legislation that is bipartisan, with Republicans and Democrats cosponsoring it and bringing it to the floor, it saves money rather than adds to the budget deficit, and it produces hundreds of thousands of jobs going forward. It seems to me this makes good sense for this Congress.

I am expecting this afternoon—with the help of my colleagues Senator ENSIGN, Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator REID, and so many others who have worked on this legislation, I am hoping we will get a very strong vote, get it to the House of Representatives, and get it signed by the President so we can put a lot of people to work in this country as well as incentivize people to come to this country to see what it is about, and that is an awfully good thing, in my judgment.