

2 weeks before we can produce a score. Yet we are being told we must pass this bill next week? Slow down, start over, and do it right.

We are going to pay for it, we are being told, by taking \$500 billion out of Medicare. And every study of Medicare says at least \$500 billion is being wasted, so that is easy. Let's take \$500 billion out, and we will solve the problem.

We can take \$500 billion out of Medicare with a meat cleaver, and that means we are cutting the programs that are good in Medicare, the things about Medicare that work as well as the things that do not work. Maybe we should slow down, start over, and do it right by taking the \$500 billion out of Medicare with a surgeon's scalpel rather than a meat cleaver and spend the time to find out where the money is being wasted, how it could be changed, where the incentives need to be altered so that the \$500 billion comes out of the right part of Medicare instead of with a slash with a meat cleaver.

Medicare is not the only one where more careful examination could produce significant savings. We are told that Medicaid in 2007 spent \$30 billion improperly. If we extrapolate that over the 10-year period that we use to make these projections, that is \$300 billion that could come from Medicaid. Are we going to take a meat cleaver to Medicaid and say we are going to arbitrarily cut \$300 billion out of Medicaid in the next 10 years because there is a study that says that much is being wasted or are we going to listen to the Governors, bipartisan, Democrat as well as Republican, who are telling us: What you are doing in this bill on Medicaid is going to bankrupt the States because they simply cannot sustain the kinds of increases that are built into it and nothing will be done about the \$30 billion of waste and abuse that is there.

How are we going to get at it? How are we going to discover what that \$30 billion is? How are we going to deal with it in a way that does not bankrupt the States? To answer that question, we need to slow down, start over, and get it right.

If I can be provincial and parochial for just a moment, my home State of Utah has done a great amount of work on health care. They have been very entrepreneurial and innovative. They have come up with ideas to deal with health care, ideas from which we at the Federal level could learn a great deal, but we cannot learn anything from the experimentation that is going on in the States if we continue this rush to an arbitrary deadline, to get this thing done within a couple of weeks.

The States have great experience with this. There is much the States can teach us. There is much the Governors need to tell us before we rush to spend this much money, which means we should slow down, start over, and do it right.

As I talk with the businesses, as I talk with my constituents in Utah, I come back to the same thing I said at

the beginning. There is a 100-percent bipartisan agreement that something has to be done. Our long-term challenges with health care are absolutely unsustainable, to use a Washington word. That is another word for disaster.

We have to deal with this, and we have to deal with it in an intelligent way. The numbers are very large, and we have to recognize the stakes are very high. But that is, again, the message that comes from those who will be most affected by what we do, either in their businesses or their personal lives or their tax returns. It is very important that we get it right; and if we are going to get it right, we have to start over. If we are going to start over, we have to slow down.

That is the wisdom this body should adopt as it deals with this challenge so that we can change the reality of where the bipartisan agreement is. Instead of the bipartisan agreement growing in opposition to the bill, we need a circumstance where a bipartisan agreement will grow in support of a bill that will solve our problem. The bill before the Finance Committee is not that bill, and a large number of Members of this body of both parties are increasingly coming to that conclusion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAUFMAN). The Senator from New York.

DEMANDING AN APOLOGY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 253, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 253) expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of Libya should apologize for the welcome home ceremony held to celebrate the release of convicted Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 253) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 253

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the August 20, 2009, release from prison in Scotland of Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, the lone person convicted in connection with the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people, including 189 Americans;

(2) condemns the lavish welcome home ceremony held in Tripoli, Libya, to celebrate the release of Mr. al-Megrahi; and

(3) calls on the Government of Libya to apologize for the public celebration of Mr. al-Megrahi's release.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have a brief statement I would like to make about the resolution.

I rise today in support of S. Res. 253, a resolution condemning the release and vile welcome home celebration held for Libyan terrorist and convicted Lockerbie bomber, Abdel Baset al-Megrahi. I also express my sincere thanks and appreciation to my colleagues, Senators LAUTENBERG, GILLIBRAND, WEBB, VOINOVICH, CARDIN, CASEY, MCCASKILL, MENENDEZ, and MIKULSKI for agreeing to cosponsor this resolution.

Mr. President, it is upsetting that Libyan leader COL Muammar Qaddafi is in New York City at this very moment and will be given an opportunity to speak before the United Nations General Assembly. I am disappointed because I sympathize enormously with the families and victims of the deadly Pan Am terrorist attack who will be reminded of that deadly day in December almost 21 years ago when they see Qaddafi grandstanding at the U.N.

On December 21, 1988, Pan Am Flight 103, en route from London's Heathrow Airport to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, suddenly exploded over the town of Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 259 on board and 11 people on the ground. Many New Yorkers and New Jersey residents were among the 189 Americans killed in the bombing. A young man from my neighborhood, whose family was active in a neighboring parish—Our Lady Help of Christians—was killed in the bloom of his early life. That story could be repeated over and over because there were many students who were coming back from a program affiliated with Syracuse University. We know people all over New York State were lost, and many young college students.

In 2001, at least the families of the victims found some solace when justice appeared to have been delivered as Abdel Baset al-Megrahi was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. But to the shock of many people on both sides of the Atlantic, on August 20 of this year, the Scottish Government released al-Megrahi, who is currently suffering from prostate cancer and is predicted to have about 3 months to live. The Scottish Government claimed the release was a compassionate gesture given his failing health.

Upon his return, thousands of young men, who had been transported by the Libyan Government, gathered at the airport in Tripoli to greet the terrorist. They waved banners, threw flower petals after al-Megrahi was escorted from prison by Seif al-Islam el-Qaddafi, the son of COL Muammar Qaddafi. The hero's welcome Libya gave to this terrorist truly shocks the conscience and deserves a formal rebuke.

It is outrageous that the Libyan Government would so blatantly disregard the suffering the families have endured for more than two decades. S. Res. 253 demands the Government of Libya apologize for the gross homecoming celebration of al-Megrahi.

This resolution does three important things: First, it condemns the August 20, 2009, release from prison in Scotland of Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, the lone person convicted in connection with the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people; second, it condemns the lavish welcome home ceremony held in Tripoli to celebrate the release of al-Megrahi; and third, it calls on the Government of Libya to apologize for the public celebration of al-Megrahi's release.

Al-Megrahi only served 8 years in jail. He committed one of the most dastardly terrorist attacks that has been known in the last 100 years. Eight years later, the families haven't recuperated. They live with their losses every day, every minute. There is a hole in their hearts that will never heal. To release al-Megrahi is terrible; to celebrate the release of this awful terrorist is even worse. And for the world to remain silent, the U.N. not to condemn but to greet Qaddafi—strike three. It is an awful situation.

I call on the Senate to support S. Res. 253 condemning the release and the vile welcome home celebration. I hope all Senators will join us in cosponsoring the resolution. Murder and terrorism are not forgivable offenses, and refuge should never be offered to those determined to terrorize and murder the innocent. If we do so, we are encouraging future terrorists to repeat these awful crimes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

COMMENDING SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened by the recent announcement of the distinguished Senator from Florida, Mel Martinez, that he had decided to resign from the Senate. Although he had served in the Senate for a relatively short period of time—since January 4, 2005—he had become a very important influence in this body.

As the first Cuban American to serve in the Senate, he shared with us his personal experiences and insights into his early life in Cuba, including his separation from his parents at a young age as he traveled to Florida to embark upon a very successful new life of learning and leadership in the United States. He earned undergraduate and law degrees from Florida State University. He served as a member of the Orlando Utilities Commission and was elected Mayor of Orange County. President George W. Bush selected him to serve as a member of his Cabinet, as

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. He was elected a United States Senator in 2004 and quickly established himself as an effective advocate for his State in the Senate.

Mel Martinez quickly became an active and influential member of the Armed Services Committee as well as the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, and the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. His constituents benefitted in particular from his service as ranking member of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging.

Mr. President I congratulate my friend from Florida on his very successful service and important contributions through his dedicated public service in Florida and in our Nation's Capital. I have enjoyed serving with him, and I wish him all the best in the years ahead.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2996, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Carper amendment No. 2456, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on black carbon emissions.

Collins amendment No. 2498, to provide that no funds may be used for the administrative expenses of any official identified by the President to serve in a position without express statutory authorization and which is responsible for the interagency development or coordination of any rule, regulation, or policy unless the President certifies to Congress that such official will respond to all reasonable requests to testify before, or provide information to, any congressional committee with jurisdiction over such matters, and such official submits certain reports bi-annually to Congress.

Isakson modified amendment No. 2504, to encourage the participation of the Smithsonian Institution in activities preserving the papers and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., under the Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009.

Vitter motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions to report the same back to the Senate forthwith with Vitter amendment No. 2508 (to the instructions on Vitter motion to commit the bill), to prohibit the use of funds to delay the implementation of the Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2010–2015.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the floor is now open for amendments to the Interior bill. I hope Senators will come to the floor if they have an amendment. The filing deadline is 1 o'clock this afternoon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I say to the Senator from California that I join her in urging our colleagues to come to the floor and offer their amendments so we can move on through the bill. There is an opportunity to offer them and to debate them.

Mr. President, if someone comes to the floor I will finish quickly so they can take the floor and we can move on with the bill, but while we are waiting for that, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, with great respect to the President of the United States, I am still shaking my head a little bit in disbelief at his speech yesterday on climate change at the Climate Change Summit in New York. Here we had 100 leaders from around the world in our country to talk about climate change and the President said what he has said before, which is that we need to stop putting so much carbon in the air because carbon is the principal greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change, in the opinion of most scientists.

But in saying that, the President did not mention the one way we have to create a lot of low-cost electricity without putting any carbon in the air, and that is nuclear power—a process that the United States invented; a process that the United States operates more efficiently than any other country in the world. It produces 19 percent of our electricity, and our plants operate 90 percent of the time. Even France, which gets 80 percent of its electricity from nuclear power, only operates its plants 80 percent of the time. He failed to mention nuclear power even though it produces 70 percent of our carbon-free electricity, and even though every one of the other top five carbon emitting nations in the world are committed to a full-scale construction program for nuclear power.

This is what the President said:

The developed nations that caused much of the damage to the climate over the last century have the responsibility to lead—and that includes the United States.

Well, according to the Wall Street Journal on Monday, September 21, in its news pages, we know who produces the carbon: China is No. 1—6 million metric tons; the United States is No. 2—nearly 6 million metric tons. So we produce about the same. Russia is next—1.7 million; India is next; Japan is next. Those are the top five carbon emitting nations.