

Given the complexity of this bill and the interest Members have, if we utilize the time rather than sitting in quorum calls hour after hour—we will hear that bellowing that occurs: I never had a chance to be heard on my amendment. Why didn't I have time to be heard? The answer is going to be—I am keeping the record here—how much time I have been sitting around waiting for someone to come debate an amendment.

If I sound a little frustrated—it is a little too early in the debate to get frustrated, but I wanted to express it in advance of the real frustration that will come later on.

There will be no more votes this evening.

I see my colleague from Colorado is here. I am going to do the wrap-up and then allow my colleague to be heard.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN DAVID OBEY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I was saddened by the announcement of my friend, Congressman DAVID OBEY of Wisconsin, that he will retire from the U.S. House of Representatives. He has served with great distinction for the people of his district in Wisconsin since April 1, 1969.

He was elected to succeed Melvin Laird, who had resigned from the House to serve as Secretary of Defense. DAVID OBEY was reelected to 17 succeeding Congresses. In the House, he has chaired the Joint Economic Committee and the Committee on Appropriations. DAVID OBEY has had a career of distinction in the Congress. He has been conscientious in the discharge of his duties and responsibilities as a Congressman and he has been a good friend of mine.

I will truly miss working with DAVID OBEY on the Appropriations Committee. We dealt with some of the most contentious issues of our time. I always respected him even though we sometimes had to disagree on issues that were being considered by our committee.

He was a spirited and effective Member of Congress. I extend to him my very good wishes for the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to join my great friend from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, in his sentiments about DAVID OBEY.

I have known DAVID OBEY for 36 years. He had already been in Congress about 4 or 5 years when I got to meet DAVE, when I arrived in 1975. He is a wonder-

ful individual, with deep passions. He was the best ally you ever had if he was on your side, and he was a frightening opponent if he was on the other side. Having been on both sides of an argument with DAVE OBEY, believe me, I much prefer having him an ally on issues.

He is a notorious workhorse who showed up every day with his sleeves rolled up to fight for not only the little guy in his own district in Wisconsin but for people all across the country. Working men and women never had a better ally in the Congress of the United States than they did in DAVE OBEY.

He did not spare any of his emotion or rhetoric when it came to the defense of that working man and woman in our country during his more than 40 years of service. He has great passion. Nothing he disliked more than a bully, and nothing ignited his temper more than any injustice.

He loved his State, his family, and enjoyed a great joke when we would spend time with him in various committees and the marking up of bills. He and I worked together. We were involved, when in my earliest days in the House I was a strong backer of Richard Bolling from Missouri to be majority leader back in 1976 I think it was.

Gillis Long of Louisiana and I were the comanagers of Richard Bolling's campaign to become majority leader when Tip O'Neill was going to become Speaker and there was a contest over the majority leader's race.

The other great ally in that effort was DAVE OBEY of Wisconsin. That is when I first got to know DAVE, in that battle for the majority leader. We lost that battle. Dick Bolling did not make it. Jim Wright became the majority leader in a very close contest, in fact, with Phil Burton of California. It was a 1-vote margin that determined the majority leader's race.

Richard Bolling dropped out after the second ballot, did not get enough votes. But DAVE OBEY and I and Gillis Long and a group of others organized to support Richard Bolling. That is when I got to know DAVE. I was with him about a couple of weeks ago. ROSA DELAURO, the Congresswoman from the New Haven district in Connecticut, my former campaign manager, chief of staff for 7 years, was only the second woman to be the Chief of Staff of a Senator of the United States. She served with me for 7 years and went on to become a Member of Congress for the last 20 years herself.

ROSA sits on the Appropriations Committee and chairs the Agriculture Subcommittee. DAVE OBEY was at that event for Congresswoman DELAURO and gave some wonderful remarks on behalf of her that evening.

I join THAD COCHRAN in wishing DAVE the very best. He served his State, his district, and his country with distinction and great patriotism. We wish him the very best.

JUSTICE FOR NEVADA'S COLD WAR VETERANS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge an important achievement for Nevada's Cold War veterans and their families. These individuals served their country at the Nevada Test Site, where over one thousand nuclear weapons detonations took place over four decades of nuclear testing. The work at the Nevada Test Site, NTS, helped America win the Cold War, but it also left thousands of workers with debilitating cancers. Beginning today, many of these workers will now be eligible for automatic compensation, putting an end to years of bureaucratic nightmares and redtape.

On February 19, 1952, the Nevada Test Site was created to serve as the Nation's nuclear test site. 174 atmospheric and underground tests were performed there before the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 banned all atmospheric, space, and sub-sea nuclear weapons testing. Another 754 tests were completed before the United States established a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing in 1992. The vast majority of testing in this period took place underground, in a network of tunnels and shafts, although some non-weapons nuclear testing continued to take place above ground. Even though these tunnels were designed to contain the radiation produced by the tests, most of the underground detonations did release radiation that reached NTS workers.

In 2000, after a number of my colleagues and I had begun to hear disturbing stories from our constituents about illnesses they had gotten from their nuclear weapons work and their inability to get any financial compensation from the government, we introduced and passed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act. This legislation was designed to allow thousands of America's Cold War veterans who had worked for the Department of Energy to receive compensation that would not only help pay their medical bills but would also honor the sacrifices they and their families had made for their country.

Unfortunately, it soon became clear that even with this new law, it would not be easy for many workers to get the compensation they deserved. In 2005, I began to hear from workers and survivors complaining that they were being put through a seemingly endless stream of bureaucratic redtape only to be denied in the end. I heard stories about workers who were encouraged to remove their radiation detection devices so that they could continue to work even after reaching the maximum allowable radiation levels, yet their records showed zero radiation exposures year after year. I was enraged that these workers were denied compensation simply because their employer failed to keep an accurate account of how much radiation each worker was exposed to, so I embarked upon a three-pronged strategy to add

NTS workers to the Special Exposure Cohort, SEC, making them eligible for automatic compensation. I immediately wrote a letter to President Bush asking for his administration to rectify this horrible wrong, and for some NTS workers, the situation was set right the next year.

In 2006, employees who had worked at NTS for at least 250 days from 1951 to 1962, or the atmospheric testing years, saw a tremendous victory. They were designated as part of a new Special Exposure Cohort, SEC. However, the sacrifices of NTS workers from the years of underground testing and their families went largely unacknowledged, until now. Thanks to the new SEC which goes into effect today, some measure of justice will be brought to these employees of NTS and their families.

Unfortunately, this new SEC will not put an end to the years of waiting for all NTS workers. Some won't be eligible for automatic compensation because their cancer isn't on the official list or because they worked less than 250 days, even if they were present for a large release of radiation. I will continue to fight to make sure each and every one of Nevada's Cold War veterans and their families get the compensation and justice they deserve for the enormous personal sacrifices they have made for their country. Still, I am very happy that today an estimated 1,365 claimants may be eligible for automatic compensation under the new SEC.

After submitting legislation to add the underground testing years to the SEC in 2006, my office began the long and complicated process of working with workers, survivors, and experts to submit an SEC petition. After much hard work, on February 5, 2007, I joined with three Nevadans in submitting an SEC petition arguing the scientific problems with the radiation dose reconstruction process that was denying so many NTS workers and their families the compensation and recognition they deserve. When the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, initially recommended that the petition be denied, it was the tireless work of more than a dozen individuals standing up for what is right that prevented the petition from being rejected completely. It was as a team that we persevered to gain approval for the petition and, with this approval, justice for the underground testing workers and their families.

Today's victory would not have happened without the dedicated team of NTS workers, their families, and others who fought for years to make this day possible. I would like to take a moment to thank some of these people.

First, I personally extend a heartfelt thank you to the three petitioners who devoted their time, energy, and testimony to bring this issue to the forefront. Thank you Lori Hunton, Paul Stednick, and Peter White. Lori's father, Oral Triplett worked at the Ne-

vada Test Site and passed away when she was only 16. Paul worked at the site from 1966 to 1994 as a laborer and labor foreman. Peter worked as a laborer, pipefitter, and welder from 1985 to 1989. Each of these individuals provided invaluable insight and support necessary to complete the petition process.

I also thank Navor Valdez, Gene Campbell, Mary Bess Holloway Peterson, William Cleghorn, Robert Lemons, Cooper Michael Boyd, Patricia Niemeier, and John Funk, for sharing their stories about what really happened on the ground in Nevada.

No thank you would be complete without acknowledging Richard Miller, formerly of the Government Accountability Project, without whom this petition would never have been filed.

Finally, I send my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have worked at the Nevada Test Site and their families. I especially would like to acknowledge workers who passed away while fighting for benefits and their widows, widowers, and children surviving them who took up the fight for their loved one. Nevada's Cold War heroes have made immeasurable contributions to our nation's security, and the sacrifices they have made their health and their lives make it impossible for us to ever adequately thank them.

BBG NOMINATIONS

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have my letter to Mr. MCCONNELL, dated April 28, 2010, concerning BBG nominations printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, April 28, 2009.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements regarding Presidential nominees to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). On April 13, 2010 the Committee on Foreign Relations reported the following nominations to the Senate: Walter Isaacson, of Louisiana, as Chairman; Victor Ashe of Tennessee; Michael Lynton of California; Susan McCue of Virginia; Dennis Mulhaupt of California; and S. Enders Wimbush of Virginia.

Additionally, the Committee on Foreign Relations is still considering the nominations of Dana Perino of the District of Columbia, and Michael Meehan of Virginia to the Broadcasting Board of Governors. I request that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements for these two nominations as well.

I have had longstanding concerns regarding transparency and effectiveness of our taxpayer funded international broadcasting agencies under the purview of the Broadcasting Board of Governors. In particular, I am troubled by the operations and management of Voice of America (VOA) given issues raised by the media, Inspector General, and former employees of VOA. Therefore, I have

requested to meet with all the prospective nominees to discuss these issues. The Broadcasting Board of Governors performs a vital role regarding oversight and management of our international broadcasting. As the nation faces threats from the Middle East and in fact throughout the world, transparent and effective international broadcasting agencies are critical to ensuring our international broadcasts are in fact fulfilling the America's interests in securing peace for ourselves and our allies.

Again, thank you for protecting my rights on these nominations.

Sincerely,

TOM A. COBURN, M.D.,
U.S. Senator.

IRAN AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I read with interest, and disgust, the press reports about the comments of Iranian President Ahmadinejad at the United Nations on Monday, when he attempted to defend Iran's secret nuclear program and his government's continuing defiance of the Security Council.

I could not help but contrast his words with the efforts so many other countries have been making to prevent a nuclear weapon from ending up in the hands of a terrorist, or a nuclear arms race from taking off in the Middle East or South Asia.

In the past couple of weeks, the United States and Russia—two former enemies that once came to the brink of a nuclear war and since the 1980s have slashed their nuclear arsenals—agreed to make further reductions, and President Obama has said he wants to negotiate deeper cuts in furtherance of his long-term vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

On Monday, the Pentagon disclosed publicly the number of weapons that remain in our arsenal, which would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

There are serious efforts being made to establish nuclear weapons-free zones in South America, Africa, and the Middle East.

And at the United Nations, even countries such as Russia and China, which have traditionally sided with Iran, have all but lost patience with what Secretary Clinton rightly called Iran's "history of making confusing, contradictory and inaccurate statements."

Nobody questions Iran's right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. But the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is, as United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has said, more important today than ever. Terrorists like the Times Square bomber could cause death and destruction on a scale we have not seen since World War II. Nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists would have consequences for life as we know it that are almost unfathomable. And Iran has long been a state sponsor of terrorism.

President Ahmadinejad insists there is no proof that Iran is building a nuclear weapon, at the same time that he