

These Senators, cloaked in anonymity, were not punishing Attorney General Holder by blocking Susan Carbon's confirmation. These Senators were punishing the victims of domestic and sexual violence in States across this country. They were punishing the police officers who put their lives at risk every time they enter homes plagued by domestic violence. They were punishing community groups that are working to prevent domestic and sexual violence. What these Senators did by blocking the confirmation of the Director of the Office of Violence Against Women for 2 months was, simply and plainly, wrong.

I hope the news that her confirmation is moving forward is a correct one. I hope that for the 70 or so other good public servants who are just trying to serve this country who have been nominated, that their nominations will also go forward so we can make sure people are in the positions they should be to run this government on behalf of the citizens of this country.

I yield the floor and 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. REID. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3961

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 252, H.R. 3961; that the amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the Record.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. Reserving the right to object, and I am going to object, I believe this is the simple unemployment insurance extension?

Mr. REID. That is true.

Mr. McCONNELL. I would suggest another way to resolve the issue. I would ask that with respect to the House message on the CJS appropriations bill, that the motion to concur with an amendment be the Baucus-Grassley amendment which was filed earlier today.

I know my friend and colleague is going to offer some scaled-down version of that shortly. But if we offered instead the Grassley-Baucus amendment which was filed earlier today, that would include the unemployment extension. That was one of the features of that Baucus-Grassley amendment.

So if this consent were granted, it would allow us to work on that pack-

age rather than the version that the leader of the majority is going to offer here shortly that includes only four of those provisions.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I do not accept the modification.

Mr. McCONNELL. Let me add that unemployment insurance does not expire until February 28. We will be back on February 22, and hopefully we will have sufficient time to work on an acceptable extension.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to H.R. 2847.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a message from the House.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2847) entitled "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes," with a House amendment to the Senate amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 3310

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill, with an amendment which is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2847 with an amendment numbered 3310.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3311 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3310

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk and ask that it be stated.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3311 to amendment No. 3310.

The amendment (No. 3311) reads as follows:

At the end of the amendment, insert the following:

The provisions of this Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur with an amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2847, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, and Justice and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Mark R. Warner, Tom Harkin, Kay R. Hagan, Daniel K. Inouye, Bill Nelson, Al Franken, Max Baucus, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Robert Menendez, Amy Klobuchar, Daniel K. Akaka, Frank R. Lautenberg, Byron L. Dorgan, Richard Durbin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22, and the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3312

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to refer with instructions at the desk, and I ask that it be stated.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to refer the House message to the Appropriations Committee, with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 3312.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

"The Committee on Appropriations is requested to study the impact of any delay in implementing the provisions of the Act on job creation on a regional and national level."

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3313

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to my instructions at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3313 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

“and include statistics of specific service-related positions created.”

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3314 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3313

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3314 to amendment No. 3313.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:
“and the impact on the local economy.”

MORNING BUSINESS

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN HAITI

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my continued concern over the humanitarian situation in Haiti after the catastrophic January 12, 2010, earthquake. While the destruction has proved to make the aid and relief situation on the ground complicated and difficult to navigate, President Obama’s promise to the people of Haiti that “you will not be forsaken; you will not be forgotten” has rung true to date.

The global outpouring of support, in resources, money and people on the ground has been encouraging. American contributions and activities, in particular, have been exemplary. All Americans should be proud of how we have responded to help our neighbors who are truly facing the direst of situations. Countless U.S. Government agencies and the military quickly swung into action, managed by Operation Unified Response and Joint Task Force Haiti, and have moved with an impressive and coordinated effort.

I would like to make a special mention of the efforts carried out by Marylanders.

The USNS *Comfort*, which we are proud to have based in Baltimore Harbor, provides a mobile, flexible, and rapidly responsive afloat medical capability for acute medical and surgical care, with a 550-person medical team and a capacity of 250 hospital beds and room to treat 1,000 people. The day after the earthquake, the *Comfort* was ordered to assist in the humanitarian relief efforts as a crucial part of Operation Unified Response. Upon its arrival in Haiti on January 20, the crew of the *Comfort* immediately began critical lifesaving medical treatment early that day, and on the following day, the first baby was safely born aboard.

Four weeks after the earthquake, the *Comfort* remains on station and is operating at maximum capacity. Surgeries

are being performed around the clock and the intensive care units and wards are filled. Navy Dr. (CAPT) Jim Ware, the medical group commander, noted upon arrival, “We have never had that number on the ship, but we can do it,” capturing the spirit of the all the U.S. troops on the ground in Haiti. Yet these committed men and women are certainly facing a daunting challenge—the *Comfort* has cared for more patients in the last 5 days than it did during all of the two wars in Iraq. In less than a week, it has changed from a dormant hospital floating in Baltimore into one of the busiest U.S. Department of Defense medical facilities in the world and we applaud them for their work.

I have always been heartened by good work done by the many international aid organizations based in Maryland. IMA World Health, Lutheran World Relief, and the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore are just a few of many agencies that are providing critical supplies and volunteers on the ground.

We are grateful for good news from these agencies, such as the safe return of IMA employees Sarla Chand, Ann Varghese and IMA President Rick Santos, who were trapped for 55 hours under the rubble of a destroyed hotel. In Haiti to work on treatment of tropical diseases that afflict much of the population, they wanted to stay and help with earthquake relief as soon as they were freed from the rubble. While they have now returned home to Maryland, their colleagues at IMA have followed suit, sending 80 boxes of relief supplies, each with medication and supplies to treat common illnesses of 1,000 people for 2 months.

The Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services was already providing vital lifesaving and development programming before the earthquake struck and was tapped by the Vatican to head up all of the Church’s efforts in Haiti. The 313 permanent staff members on the ground are part of the lead agency providing aid in partnership with the 82nd Airborne Division. They have distributed food to more than 200,000 people through relief distribution sites in Port-au-Prince, and are coordinating with local agencies to speed up the distribution. They have worked tirelessly to open three operating rooms at St. Francois de Sales Hospital in Port-Au-Prince, where volunteer medical teams are now performing up to 200 operations a week, with at least one Baltimore-based doctor already working there—Dr. Guesly Delva, a native of Haiti.

It is important to remember that donations made by ordinary citizens are what allow these wonderful organizations to continue doing their important work. I am proud that Marylanders have pitched in. Catholic Relief Services has raised more than \$38 million in donations, including generous second collections from local parishes. Text donations by Maryland residents to the Red Cross and other worthy or-

ganizations carrying out aid and relief projects are in the top 10 percent nationwide. These organizations will continue to need support over the coming months, so I am pleased to see the U.S. Congress, with my support, moved quickly to pass the Haiti Assistance Income Tax Incentive—HAITI—Act, which allows U.S. taxpayers to make charitable contributions to Haiti relief programs before March 1, 2010, and claim those contributions on their 2009 income tax return.

The earthquake and the reconstruction effort further underscore the need for smart and effective U.S. development aid to countries mired in poverty, like Haiti. I am heartened to see that the newly confirmed USAID Administrator Raj Shah was in place to skillfully manage the government-wide aid process. But more must be done to strengthen and empower the U.S. Agency of International Development. This is precisely why I was an original cosponsor to the bipartisan Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act of 2009, S. 1524. Reforming our foreign assistance matters and can have a direct effect on how people withstand and move on after disasters.

If the U.S. has the best trained and most equipped development agency in the world, the foreign aid we deliver and implement will foster sustainable development, enabling the governments of these countries to have the infrastructure and capacity to better manage the situation when tragedy strikes. I am glad this legislation has passed through committee and I look forward to working with my colleagues in both the Senate and the House to ensure effective development assistance is a key part of U.S. foreign policy.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will continue to closely monitor the situation and help provide the needed assistance and resources to our Haitian neighbors.

ANTITERRORISM TOOLS AND INFORMATION SHARING

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the December 25, 2009, attempted bombing of Northwest flight 253, and the steps we must continue to take to improve the effectiveness of our Nation’s antiterrorism tools and interagency information sharing and communication. On December 25, 2009, a Nigerian national, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, attempted to detonate an explosive device while onboard Northwest flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit. The device did not explode, but instead ignited, injuring Mr. Abdulmutallab and two other passengers.

As a result of their heroic actions, the flight crew and passengers were able to restrain Mr. Abdulmutallab and the plane safely landed. Mr. Abdulmutallab was not on the U.S. Government’s terrorist Watch List but he was known to the U.S. intelligence community.