

Corker	Hatch	Risch
Cornyn	Isakson	Roberts
Crapo	Johanns	Sessions
DeMint	Kyl	Shelby
Ensign	LeMieux	Thune
Enzi	Lugar	Vitter
Graham	McConnell	Wicker
Grassley	Murkowski	
Gregg	Nelson (NE)	

NOT VOTING—4

Hutchison	Levin
Lautenberg	McCain

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote the yeas are 62, the nays are 34. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, amendment No. 3311 is withdrawn.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur with an amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2847.

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

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

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON).

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 25 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Akaka	Feingold	Murkowski
Alexander	Feinstein	Murray
Baucus	Franken	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Gillibrand	Pryor
Begich	Hagan	Reed
Bennet	Harkin	Reid
Bingaman	Hatch	Rockefeller
Bond	Inhofe	Sanders
Boxer	Inouye	Schumer
Brown (MA)	Johnson	Shaheen
Brown (OH)	Kaufman	Snowe
Burr	Kerry	Specter
Burriss	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Byrd	Kohl	Tester
Cantwell	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Cardin	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Carper	LeMieux	Voinovich
Casey	Levin	Warner
Cochran	Lieberman	Webb
Collins	Lincoln	Whitehouse
Conrad	McCaskill	Wicker
Dodd	Menendez	Wyden
Dorgan	Merkley	
Durbin	Mikulski	

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Ensign	McConnell
Bennett	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Brownback	Graham	Risch
Bunning	Grassley	Roberts
Chambliss	Gregg	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Kyl	Vitter
Crapo	Lugar	
DeMint	McCain	

NOT VOTING—2

Hutchison	Lautenberg
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The motion was agreed to.

Mr. KAUFMAN. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The bill, H.R. 2847, as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, this Monday, I was honored to stand before this Chamber and read George Washington's Farewell Address. This annual tradition invites Members of the Senate, as well as the American people, to pause and reflect on the wisdom of our first President.

In this historic text, the father of our country lays out a unique view of the Nation he helped to create. It is a testament to the American spirit and a tribute to the American people that this country has come such a long way since the days of our ancestors.

Washington's vision was especially poignant to me, having traced my personal ancestry back to the days of slavery.

As I looked out over this Chamber on Monday, I thought about the reasons we celebrate each February as Black History Month. This year, as Black History Month draws to a close, I cannot help but reflect that Washington's address reminds us that Black history and American history are inseparable from one another; that the American story cannot be distilled into the Black experience and the White experience but that both are essential components of the American experience.

The story of this country is a story of expanding equality and opportunity, of people and institutions grappling with social change and striving to live up to the promise of a single line in the Declaration of Independence which laid out the creed that came to define this Nation:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. . . .

With these simple words, a slave owner named Thomas Jefferson laid the cornerstone of the free America we know today, even if the noble sentiment was not realized for all Americans until more than a century later. Although we have seen such injustice—though our journey toward freedom and equality is far from over—we can draw great strength from the promise that was woven into the fabric of our Nation on the day we declared our independence.

Black History Month is a time to remember those who have taken part in every step of that ongoing journey and to celebrate the legacy they have left behind for each of us.

At every moment in our past, African Americans have stood shoulder to shoulder with their countrymen from all races, backgrounds, and walks of life to help chart our course and define who we are to become: from the slaves who laid the very foundation of this Capitol Building to the businessmen and entrepreneurs who helped build our modern economy; from the "King" who dared to dream of an America he would never live to see to the President who reached the mountaintop; from the man who was born into the bonds of slavery to his great grandson who stands today before his peers in the Senate.

Each of these stories, however ordinary or remarkable, illustrates how Black history is woven deeply into the broad canvas of American history and why the two are inseparable from one another.

For me, this reality was brought to life the moment I stood at the front of this Chamber and began to read the words that our first President wrote to his countrymen more than two centuries ago. Yet it was the visionary leadership and high ideals of men such as Washington and Jefferson which transcended the prejudice of their times and made it possible for later generations to tear those inequalities to the ground.

All Americans have benefited from this profound legacy. We all have an interest in preserving the history we share.

In the closing days of this Black History Month, I urge my colleagues to reflect not only on the ways African Americans have contributed to American history but also on the ways we can move forward together as one Nation, just as Washington calls us to do in his Farewell Address.

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

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

UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to H.R. 1299, the U.S. Capitol Police administrative authorities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 1299) entitled "An Act to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States

Capitol Police, and for other purposes," with a House amendment to the Senate amendment.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment, and I have a cloture motion at the desk on the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). 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 in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1299, the United States Capitol Police Administrative Technical Corrections Act.

Harry Reid, Byron L. Dorgan, Russell D. Feingold, Patrick J. Leahy, Daniel K. Inouye, Kay R. Hagan, Jeff Bingaman, Robert Menendez, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Mark Begich, Patty Murray, Bernard Sanders, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Barbara Boxer, Jon Tester, John D. Rockefeller IV.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I thought it was important that the clerk read those names. Sometimes they are hard to read.

AMENDMENT NO. 3326

I move to concur in the House amendment with an amendment, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment with an amendment numbered 3326.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the amendment, insert the following:

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3327 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3326

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3327 to amendment No. 3326.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "5" and insert "4".

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3328

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to refer with instructions, which is also at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to refer the House message to the Senate Committee on Rules with instructions to report back forthwith, with an amendment numbered 3328.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

The Senate Rules Committee is requested to study the benefit of enacting a travel promotion measure, and the impact on job creation by its enactment.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3329

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3329 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following: "and include reasonable statistics of job creation."

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3330 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3329

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3330 to amendment No. 3329.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following: "including specific data on the types of jobs created."

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived with respect to the cloture motion.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I say for the benefit of Members, under the rules, this cloture motion will ripen Friday morning. I do not think there is going to be a lot of talk during the next 2 days on this matter, and I would certainly be happy to move up this time and have the vote earlier. But we will wait until we hear from the Republicans.

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

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

Mr. REED. Madam President, we have today taken a very strong, positive step forward in terms of responding to the No. 1 crisis in our economy, and that is jobs for all of our people. Under Leader REID's leadership, we were able to get a bill through, with a huge majority, and it signals, I hope, not only attention to jobs but also the willingness and the ability to find common ground to serve the people of our country.

We are now on the travel promotion bill, which is another piece of legislation designed to encourage job creation in the travel industry. All of this is good news. The legislation we propose this morning combines elements of tax breaks for small businesses so they can expense their items, increase their cashflow, and hire more people with credits for hiring people. There is a huge investment in our infrastructure, which will put people to work in the building industry and in industries that supply all these infrastructure projects, and there is also a significant commitment to Build America Bonds. These are good programs, and they are fully paid for.

We are now taking up the challenge to put people to work, to do it in a responsible way, and to do so in a way that we can attract bipartisan support. But there is much more to do. There is the recognition that we have to not only create jobs but for the foreseeable future deal with those people who have been looking unsuccessfully for jobs and who are unemployed. In my home State of Rhode Island, the unemployment rate is 12.9 percent. That is the official rate. Unofficially, it is much higher, as many people have dropped out of the workforce. If you look at sectors in terms of ethnicity or age, the numbers are even more startling. The bill we passed this morning is a good first step forward, but we have to do much more.

I think one of the first jobs we have to address is the extension of unemployment benefits. They will expire this Sunday. We have to recognize that, despite many efforts here, there are millions of Americans who are looking every day and not finding work. They need support.

All of the economists who have looked at these programs indicated that not only do they support individuals and families, they provide a tremendous multiplier of economic activity for every dollar we commit to the program. There is, as they say, a big bang for the buck. People who are without a job will take their benefits and invariably they will have to support themselves in terms of going to the grocery store—doing the things you have to do just to get by day by day. They are not typically saving this money. That helps in the sense of increasing demand in the economy overall, increasing our economic growth.

If Congress fails to act swiftly, 1,200 Rhode Islanders will start losing their benefits each week. It is a small State

and that is a big number. We have never before in our history, at least postwar history, ever terminated extended unemployment and emergency unemployment benefits until unemployment was at least 7.4 percent. At that point it appears, in most cases, that there is a self-sustaining economic growth that will itself begin to continue to lower the unemployment rate. We are far from 7.4 percent. As I said, in my State it is 12.9. The national average is hovering around 10.

We have to do this. Congress has acted eight times—1958, 1961, 1971, 1974, 1982, 1991, 2002, 2008—to establish temporary federal unemployment benefit programs beyond regular unemployment compensation and extended benefits. Not to extend these benefits would essentially reject the consistent record of this Congress of helping Americans when the unemployment rate has reached such extraordinary proportions as it is today, whether the majority is Republican or Democrat. Last November, we did approve, without opposition, an expansion of up to 20 weeks, but now we need to pass a further extension.

As I said before, this is not just about helping families and individuals, it is also about helping the economy. For every \$1 we invest in our unemployment benefits, we see \$1.90 in economic activity overall throughout the economy.

One of the reasons I heard to oppose this morning's legislation: There is not enough demand to justify these tax incentives; they will not be used.

One of the things that does generate demand, consumer demand particularly, is the unemployment compensation program. It is not the way we want to do it. What we would like to see is a productive economy with jobs where the demand comes not only from people working but their being compensated and also being able, with discretionary income, to make consumption choices that today they cannot.

As I said before, we have to think about an agenda for jobs. We passed one piece of legislation today. We are discussing the travel legislation at this moment. We have to then move to the legislation with respect to unemployment compensation. We also have to think about supporting the States with additional FMAP, that is, the funds for Medicaid, because, again, not only will that help our States, but without it you are going to see a contraction in our health care industry in terms of hospitals being able to hire or willing to hire. So we have many steps to go forward.

One aspect of this issue, which I would like to mention is that many of these programs we have talked about—for example, the tax credits for hiring—are nationwide and they miss the point that there are some areas that are much more affected by unemployment than other areas. We have States—and their good fortune is something we should be proud of—that have

rates as low as 4.7 percent for unemployment. Yet they will qualify for these general, generic programs.

As we go forward and start thinking about additional steps, I think we also have to think about how we can target those programs to areas that have critical unemployment situations. Rhode Island, at 12.9 percent, is one, but there are many others. If you look within States, there are regions that have significant unemployment problems. Again, we have taken steps to extend our benefits, but as we go forward, as we consider additional legislation, let's also think seriously about how to make it more effective, more efficient, more targeted.

I again urge all my colleagues to continue the effort and spirit which resulted today in an overwhelming vote for a program that will help Americans and move our country and our economy forward.

Madam President, 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.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. 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. DORGAN. Mr. President, the legislation on the floor of the Senate at this point includes legislation that I have worked on with my colleagues for about 3 years. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation called the Travel Promotion Act. I wish to talk just a bit about it today, but before I do, let me describe the reasons for its importance.

When we began to put this together—as I said, 3 years ago last month, working with a good number of sectors in our economy to try to evaluate how do we promote international tourism to the United States—we were not in a very deep recession. We were in a period of economic growth. In the intervening period, our country has fallen into a very significant and deep recession. It makes the urgency all that much greater to create new jobs and to do so as soon as possible.

Somewhere around 15 million to 17 million people, according to official estimates, woke up this morning in this country of ours without a job. They want a job. They want work. They have looked for work, but they can't find a job in the United States of America.

Now, that number of 15 million to 17 million is ominous enough. Just think of one person this morning who woke up not able to work because they can't find a job, and then think of 15 million or 17 million, and then fast-forward and think of perhaps 25 million to 26 million, which is what is estimated to be the total population of people who are unemployed in America, many of whom have stopped looking for work because

they couldn't find work at all. This is a very big problem, and it affects our country in many ways. It affects the economy in a devastating way. It is very hard on American families when they are not able to find work to be able to take care of themselves. It results in more Federal spending for unemployment insurance and the other things. So we are trying to find ways to put people back to work.

Earlier this week we passed, with the leadership of Senator REID and many others—work that I and Senator DURBIN, Senator SCHUMER, and many others have done—a jobs bill that will begin putting people back to work when it is signed by the President. The legislation that Senator REID brought to the floor today includes the Travel Promotion Act, which will also put people back to work. I wish to talk through this and explain why this is important.

Let me begin by saying that on 9/11/2001, we were the victims of a devastating terrorist attack on our country. Thousands of Americans were killed that day. As a result, since that period of time we have been engaged in an effort to prevent terrorism, to track down the terrorists and destroy the terrorist networks that would visit that kind of tragedy upon our country. But also during that period and following, it became clear to the rest of the world that our country was clamping down on visitation to our country. Many people believed: The United States doesn't want us to visit them anymore. It is harder to get a visa to come to the United States. We are not welcome in the United States. So what happened was, there was a dramatic reduction in visitation to our country by overseas travelers.

Why is that important? When you have millions of people who are traveling around the world to go experience and see the sights and take vacations and so on, they are spending a fair amount of money on those trips. They are creating jobs in many areas, not just hotels and cars and restaurants and so on but in many other areas as well. Our country, for the last 6 to 8 years, has had the experience in which the rest of the world has said: We are going to visit Italy, France, Japan, and India. But fewer of us are going to visit the United States of America.

In fact, we have seen a circumstance where after 9/11, we had fewer and fewer visitors coming to our country; that is, fewer than came before, and last year, in 2009, we had 2.4 million fewer people visit our country than visited our country in the year 2000. Let me say that again because I think it is important. We had 2.4 million fewer people come to the United States of America to visit as overseas travelers than visited in the year 2000.

The Presiding Officer is from the State of New Mexico. It is a wonderful State, and I know it is a State that attracts a lot of visitation not only from people in our country but from people

who come from outside of America to see the wonders of New Mexico. But it doesn't matter whether it is the wonders of New Mexico or Old Faithful in Yellowstone or Niagara Falls or you name it—the cities or the wonders of our country, the great national parks—2.4 million fewer people showed up last year to visit our country.

Let me explain why that has happened. Here are some headlines. The Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney, Australia, headline: "Coming to America Isn't Easy." It describes the difficulty of getting visas and coming to America.

The Guardian in England says: "America: More Hassle Than it's Worth?" Again, difficulty coming to America.

The Sunday Times in London: "Travel to America? No Thanks," says the headline.

The newspaper says:

It is already a nightmare, but now they want to make entry into the U.S. tougher, so let's not go.

Well, let me describe what is happening in other countries at the same time we are taking leave on this issue. Other countries are very busy advertising to the world to say: Are you traveling? Are you taking a vacation? Are you seeing the world? Come to our country. Come to see what is happening.

The poster says: Looking for an experience to remember? Be part of an adventure you will never forget. Come and see Australia. See the wonders. It is true what they say: To find yourself sometimes you need to lose yourself. In Australia they call this "going walkabout." So a big campaign: If you are traveling, come to Australia. Come and see what we have to offer.

A campaign for the Emerald Isle: Go where Ireland takes you. If you are taking a trip, be sure and visit Ireland. Come to Ireland, it says. It is an international campaign.

Japan says: Sweet secrets from Japan. With its many unique culinary arts, they entice travelers; a stunning array of specialties, and on and on. Come to Japan. Thinking of traveling? Show up in Japan.

Are you taking a trip with your family? How about coming to the Eiffel Tower. Come to France in 2009. Vive la France. So France and Japan and India and Ireland say: Come and see us.

Belgium's national campaign says: If you are traveling with your family, come to Belgium where fun is always in fashion.

Brussels, sophisticated simplicity, the capital of cool.

I think you get the point. This one says:

One special reason to visit India in 2009. Any time is a good time to visit the land of Taj, but there is no time like now.

So we have millions of people traveling around the world. On average, overseas travelers spend over \$4,000. All of these countries are saying to those overseas travelers: Come to our coun-

try. See our country and the wonders of what we have to offer the world.

In the United States of America, we have not done that. That is why, in my judgment, at least in part, we had 2.4 million fewer visitors last year than we had in 2000. That is pretty unbelievable.

This proposition is simple. There is a problem. The number of people between the years 2000 and 2009 visiting other countries—overseas travel—has increased by 31 percent. During the same period the number of overseas travelers coming to the United States has decreased nearly 10 percent. So overseas travel is up, but travel to America is down.

There is another important point here. There has been a lot of polling done, and it is clear that to visit America is to have great respect for and love for this country. There is almost no one who comes to this country and tours and travels and visits our country who doesn't leave America with a special understanding of the wonders of this great place. At a time when we want people to understand more about our country, we ought to be inviting them here and saying: Come to America, see what we have to offer.

We ought to be engaged in this process, but we are not. This legislation we are bringing to the floor of the Senate is legislation that will actually increase jobs, we think, by close to 40,000 jobs, according to the estimates. So you will increase 40,000 jobs and, in addition to that, the CBO says this will reduce the Federal budget deficit by nearly \$½ billion. How many pieces of legislation come to the floor of the Senate that will both create jobs and reduce the budget deficit and also give us the opportunity to tell the rest of the world what a wonderful and great place this country is?

That is the reason for this legislation. As we build, one step at a time, opportunities to create additional jobs, this is part of it. The Congressional Budget Office has said that enacting S. 1023 would reduce the budget deficit. I think it will do that and help our country.

The specifics of this legislation will encourage international travel to all parts of this country. I think it will provide economic growth to all parts of our country. This creates a corporation for travel promotion. That is what we create—an independent, nonprofit corporation to be governed by an 11-member board of directors appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, and it creates the Office of Travel Promotion in the Department of Commerce—one that used to exist but no longer does, and it hasn't for a long while.

The purpose of this is to engage in the kind of campaign that exists in most other countries in the world and to say to those traveling around the world: Come here. You are welcome here. We want you here. Come and understand and experience this country called the United States of America.

Let me pay special attention to the work Senator REID has done, and Senator ENSIGN who is a cosponsor and worked on this in the Commerce Committee with me, Senator INOUE, Senator VITTER, and Senator KLOBUCHAR. Let me say that Senator KLOBUCHAR, in the Commerce Committee working on tourism following my chairmanship of the tourism subcommittee, has taken on this issue with gusto and is a very important part of getting this done. My hope is that when we finish this, when the President signs this bill, all of us will understand that at a time when there is so much partisanship, and when it appears to the American people that so little can be agreed upon and that so little gets done—there is all that notion out there—this fact is, this is bipartisan, good for the country, will reduce the budget deficit, and it will increase jobs and put people back to work.

If ever something had all of the things that are necessary to have merit and to be worthy, this legislation surely does that.

My colleague from Minnesota, Senator KLOBUCHAR, as I indicated, has done yeoman's work with me and others to put this together. We hope, of course, those who would come to our country would especially visit North Dakota and Minnesota and stay for a very long period of time—yes, we all have parochial interests—and perhaps North Dakota even more than Minnesota. I might say from my own perspective. I do think it is seldom that we can come to the floor and say here is a piece of legislation that Republicans and Democrats support.

We had one vote on it already. It had 79 votes in support in the Senate. Seldom can we say here is a bill that is bipartisan that does a lot of good things for our country.

Thanks to the majority leader for putting this back on the floor. I congratulate him for his work on it and my colleague Senator KLOBUCHAR as well.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank Senator DORGAN for his great leadership. For so long, he has been working on this. I have a feeling this is finally going to get done. It is true and we invite the Presiding Officer to visit North Dakota and Minnesota. I think he thinks the State of New Mexico is pretty cool, but he has never been to Teddy Roosevelt Park in North Dakota.

So often marketing campaigns for our country are done by specific cities such as Las Vegas and New York, which is important. But when you look

at this country, marketing our country as a whole is going to mean something. We are competing against countries the world over that do this all the time. That is why we have seen a 20-percent decrease in international visitors.

When I held a hearing on this issue, along with former Senator Martinez, this past year, there was a story in the Washington Post, in good humor, about all the Senators hawking their own States and the deals you could get—whether it was Senator BEGICH's \$99 cruise in Alaska or the stuff I talked about with Duluth, MN. We were doing that because people need to know about the opportunities in America. Doing it at a Commerce Committee hearing is not going to be anything compared to what France, Indonesia, and other countries are doing. They are bringing in visitors. They spend thousands and thousands of dollars.

We are doing this jobs bill this week, and an important part of that is the travel industry because it employs one out of eight Americans.

What will this bill do? One, as Senator DORGAN mentioned, it will give us the ability to market our country. Second, it will give us the funds we need to better process the visas because it is expected to bring in—and this is the estimate of the nonpartisan organization—1.6 million new international visitors each year. They spend \$4,500 on average when they come here. You can do the math—1.6 million new visitors times \$4,500 every single year. There is some expectation that the bill could generate \$4 billion in new spending and \$321 million in Federal tax revenue. In addition, the bill is estimated to create 41,000 new jobs.

What is the cost to the taxpayer? I have been pushing on deficit reduction, but what is the cost to the taxpayer? Zero. I think that is a great thing about this bill. We are doing something to create jobs. We are doing it at zero cost. As you know, there is a small fee on foreign visitors to our country, like other countries do to our people when they visit—with Canada exempted.

What I found out is that the people who care about this bill are not just in the Halls of Congress and in our major cities. When I was in Grand Marais, International Falls, Bemidji, and the Brainerd Lakes area—home of the statue of Paul Bunion and Babe the Blue Ox—they were excited about this because they have seen a decrease in visitors from Canada. They want to be able to market our country.

We have gotten so far behind. A lot of people living in, say, France are deciding where to go on their summer vacation. They are thinking: Am I going to go to America, where maybe it will take months to process my visa, or am I going to spend my vacation in England, just across the channel or maybe I will go to Mexico. That is what is happening. That is where we have lost 20 percent of the overseas travel.

Look at this chart. There were 48 million more global overseas travelers

in 2008 than in 2000. More people are traveling. We have seen the marketing power across this world. There were 633,000 fewer who have visited the United States than in 2000. So world travel is going up. You can see the big increase globally. But the number of people coming to the United States has gone down. That means less jobs in this country.

Mr. President, I believe we need to be on an equal playing field with the rest of the world. If we want to compete in our goods that we want to produce and send overseas, we also have to compete in the tourism market. In Duluth, MN, it was hard times in the 1980s. It was so bad that they put up a billboard that said:

Will the last person to leave turn off the lights.

They rebuilt because they were smart; the businesses were smart about tourism. They have beautiful Lake Superior right there. When we did a tourism hearing—a field hearing there—they were talking about, obviously, how in many areas of the country, with the recession, business in convention centers had gone down nationally, and someone whispered, “Ours has gone up.” People are looking for different things, and maybe we will have our convention in Duluth, which is a little less expensive. They can look at Lake Superior instead of looking at the Pacific Ocean.

We are proud of this country, and we want other people to visit. We want them to spend their money in America and help create 41,000 new jobs. That is what this bill is about. I am very hopeful that we are going to finally get this bill passed and support the tourism part of our economy, which employs one in eight Americans. Let's keep it strong and going.

I see that Senator DORGAN is back. I thank him so much for his tremendous leadership. I am proud that I got the opportunity to take over the subcommittee that deals with tourism. A lot of the work had been done on this bill.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I mentioned that there are incremental ways to create jobs, which is important. Senator RED has taken the lead to bring bills to the floor to do that with, earlier this week, the jobs bill that was passed and, in addition, the Travel Promotion Act.

I want to mention as well that the majority leader indicated he intends to bring the FAA Preauthorization Act to the floor of the Senate, probably during this work period. It is also going to be job creating. I chaired the Aviation Subcommittee in the Senate. It is very important that we reauthorize the FAA and pass the legislation called NextGen, to do the next generation of air traffic control systems. We have an archaic system of ground-based radar

that controls the airplanes in the American skies.

Most people are walking around with cell phones that have a much more sophisticated way of tracking anything—a GPS. Most kids have the opportunity to be able to track—if their friends want them to—the location of their friends at any moment. They can track up to 20 friends.

Teenage kids can track their friends, but we cannot track an airplane in the sky with a GPS. More commercial airliners are not equipped. We don't have the NextGen system that would modernize our air traffic control system and allow them to fly more direct routes from place to place, with less spacing, using less fuel, better for the environment. All of those things will be capable when we modernize the air traffic control system and go from a ground-based system to a GPS system for aviation flights.

That is so very important. It is very job creating.

I appreciate the majority leader saying that needs to be a priority to bring to the floor, get to a conference with the House, and get a bill passed and signed by the President.

There are also safety issues we have to deal with in the FAA Reauthorization Act. Tomorrow I will be chairing a hearing in the Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation on the Colgan crash in Buffalo, NY, the tragedy that occurred on that winter icy evening, in which the Dash 8 crashed and took the lives of so many wonderful people and took the life of the pilot and copilot as well.

There are so many questions about that flight and the circumstances that led to the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board will be testifying tomorrow at my subcommittee. I will not go into all of the issues, but the issue of pilot fatigue, the issue of training—so many different issues—the icing issue that occurred that evening. It will be a very important hearing tomorrow.

The reason I raise it is the safety issue is so important. Yes, we have a system in which we fly people all over this country and the world. We have not had fatal accidents, by and large, in commercial aviation. It has been enormously safe. The most recent accidents have been accidents that have been very substantially investigated. The Colgan crash in Buffalo, NY, has been investigated now at great length, and we will have the results of that and a discussion of that at our subcommittee hearing tomorrow. That will also give us a roadmap of what we might need to address in the FAA reauthorization bill on the safety issues.

Mr. President, 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.

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

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I wish to speak just briefly about today's vote. Today, this body, in a rare but very welcome moment of at least partial bipartisanship, voted to pass Leader REID's jobs bill. While that bill does not include every provision I would like to see, it is certainly an important step, and I commend my colleagues from both parties for supporting these provisions to put people back to work.

As a Senator from Rhode Island, which currently faces one of the highest unemployment rates in the Nation, at near 13 percent—I know the help contained in this bill, which builds on the programs we passed last year in the Recovery Act, cannot come soon enough. I hope the vote is a watershed.

Over the past few months, I have heard from hundreds of Rhode Islanders who are struggling just to find work. I have heard from Carole in North Providence, RI, who had worked all her life but was laid off 2 years ago from her position as a construction project manager. Carole has a bachelor's degree in business administration and an associate's degree in architecture and she has plenty of experience as a construction project manager. But for 2 years, she has been unable to find any work—talented, hard working, and unemployed.

I also heard from Nathaniel in Coventry, RI, who recently graduated from law school. That is a wonderful achievement and is ordinarily a benchmark that kids pass through on the way to success—certainly to employment. But Nathaniel is carrying \$100,000 in student loans and cannot find a job.

I heard from Brian in Saundertown, an unemployed construction worker who has been unable to find a job for more than a year. He has been receiving unemployment benefits, but he is justifiably concerned that those, too, might soon run out. He loves to work. He doesn't want to be on unemployment. But right now, in this economy, there is no other option for Brian and for his family.

Leader REID's jobs bill—the HIRE Act—will help put Rhode Islanders back to work. The bill provides a payroll tax holiday for businesses to encourage hiring, increased cashflow for small businesses that can be used for investments and payroll expansion, and an expansion of the Build America Bonds program to subsidize and encourage local infrastructure projects. In addition, the HIRE Act extends Federal highway funding through the end of the year, which will make a \$225 million difference for Rhode Island alone in 2010.

This legislation will be a big help for my home State, but it is only a first step toward restoring economic growth. It is certainly not the last step we need to take in this work session. As I said, I hope the vote yesterday and

today is a watershed. Outside in Washington, the heavy snows of February are melting away. Perhaps—just perhaps—the blockade that has stifled the Senate is melting away a little also.

We must now act to extend unemployment insurance and COBRA subsidies to make sure unemployed workers, such as Brian, and their families continue to be able to pay their bills and to maintain their family health insurance coverage. I hope we will soon thereafter turn to new investments in our failing transportation, water, and school infrastructure.

We had a hearing in the Budget Committee this morning with Transportation Secretary LaHood, and he agreed very strongly that where you have decrepit infrastructure—and everyone knows the United States of America has an enormous deficit of decrepit infrastructure—we are going to need to repair that sooner or later.

If we need to repair it sooner or later, why not do it now, while we need the jobs? If we need to repair it sooner or later, repairing it now does not add anything to our Nation's long-term liabilities. Indeed, under the old Yankee principle that a stitch in time saves nine, under the commonsense principle that when you get to maintenance and repair earlier rather than later, it costs less to do the maintenance and repair, there is actually a very strong case to be made that there are net savings from moving the repair of our decrepit infrastructure forward. So it is really a win-win, as Secretary LaHood acknowledged.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues as we go forward past today's watershed votes and into the following votes to help restore our economy and meet the needs of Carole and Nathaniel and Brian and millions of Americans who are unemployed and need help now.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

AFRICA

Mr. DURBIN. Last week I joined my colleague Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio on a trip to East Africa. It was an important trip that took us to Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and Sudan. We went in to observe American development assistance, to look at programs that help the victims of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, child and maternal mortality, victims of sexual violence, clean water, sanitation issues, democracy, governments, refugees.

In a matter of 6 days of traveling on the continent of Africa, Senator BROWN and I did not have much time to ourselves, but we were not planning any. We spent a lot of time meeting with people, meeting with government officials, meeting with individuals who are part of the current political environment of Africa, but also many of their lives are touched by programs in which the United States is involved.

I could not help but notice as I traveled the extraordinarily dedicated Americans who are in our Foreign Service. Many of them are posted in places around the world that are not glamorous by any means. Their jobs are hard and sometimes dangerous, and they go to work every day without complaint. We need to tip our hats to them as Americans. Let me add in there Peace Corps volunteers, many who work for the nongovernment organizations, the NGOs. Many Americans serve our best interests around the world every day without fanfare or praise.

We went to Tanzania. In Mwanza in Tanzania, we encountered a group of young Baylor University doctors who are doing part of their residency at a regional hospital, one that serves a population of several million people. Can you imagine one hospital serving that many people? That is what the people are up against in Africa.

We met a representative from Abbot Labs from my home State of Illinois who was there helping to build a modern laboratory and train local staff for the hospital.

In a small rural village several hours down a dusty, bumpy road from the nearest city, we witnessed a program by the nongovernmental organization CARE that helped build a rudimentary but critically important health clinic.

It is hard to describe this to an American, what an African would call a health clinic. It is, in fact, a building without windows but with openings for air to flow through. It is a building that is so basic it does not have running water or electricity. But it is, in fact, a building where 168 babies were born last year.

When you see this and meet the people who are delivering the babies, you realize that in many parts of Africa health care is very basic. The man who runs this clinic has about a year or two of education beyond high school. The woman who serves him is one who is gifted with not only personal skills but a lot of human experience in delivering babies.

What happens if there is a complication in the middle of this village in the middle of nowhere with no means of communication? Well, they try to get the message to the man who runs the ambulance. The ambulance in Mwanza is a tricycle, a tricycle with a flat bed on the back. They take a woman who is needing a Caesarean section, for example, put her on the back of this tricycle and take her off for a 4-hour trip to the closest hospital. That is maternal and

childcare in Africa, in Tanzania. We are trying to help through the organization CARE that I mentioned earlier.

With their help, they have not only brought them the money necessary for their ambulance, this tricycle, they have helped the local residents develop a savings and loan where their modest earnings they make by selling agricultural produce are banked away for a better day. They are allowed to borrow small units of money for buying sewing machines, which can dramatically change a life in these poor villages, or livestock or to help to pay for their kids to go to school.

In Tanzania as a whole, the PEPFAR program, which is the United States bilateral program for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and the Global Fund Program, a much larger undertaking from many other countries, have made real progress in HIV, TB, and malaria.

We also visited Ethiopia, a country I have been looking forward to seeing. It has the distinction in Africa of being the only country in Africa that was never colonized. There was a period, a short period of occupation by the Italians. But they have been a kingdom under their own control, except for that period of time since the early parts of the third and fourth century and maybe even before that. They are very proud of their own language, their own customs, their own history. They have tremendous international efforts underway to help the Ethiopian people, who are basically poor, struggling people. They are struggling against the economics of a poor nation, as well as HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis. They are resettling refugees from the war-torn neighboring state of Somalia. They are trying to build a health system.

One program, in particular, was provided by a nongovernmental organization called AMREF in the Kechene slum area of the capital of Addis Ababa. Senator BROWN and I went to this area. It is a slum with 380 people living there, that has basically had to carry in water for years because there was no running water. But because of an AMREF project, they were able to build 22 water kiosks in the country and one in this slum area. It seems like something so simple, but it has changed their lives. They now have a source of safe drinking water. Very near the small little lean-tos they live in, they have two showers for 380 people that they share and can use where they had none before. They have basic sanitation and toilet facilities, which they did not have at all.

We were greeted by two beautiful little girls who gave us flowers and invited us to a coffee ceremony.

They couldn't help but beam with pride as we took a look at the source of water and sanitation that did not exist before. So many thousands of people in Africa spend hours every day carrying water back and forth. Young girls are often denied the opportunity to go to school because they have work to do.

They have to carry water. Something as basic as water that we take for granted becomes a centerpiece in their lives every single day. Improvements are being made in Ethiopia and other places. I returned to Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is in the eastern section of that country. The capital, Kinshasa, is far west and removed not only physically but politically from many of the things happening in eastern Congo.

I try to describe Goma to those who haven't been there. It is almost impossible. Imagine one of the poorest places on Earth, where people are literally starving, where they are facing the scourge of disease, where malaria is the biggest killer of children. Imagine HIV/AIDS and the problems they face with that. Then superimpose over that the misfortune of an ongoing war that has been taking place in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo for years. There is an ongoing debate about how many people have been killed in this war. The debate ranges from the low number of about 2½ million to the high number of 6 million, and they debate very violently about whether it is 6 or 2½ million. Regardless of which number, it is an outrage. It is a genocide which is occurring in this section of Africa with little or no attention from anyone.

What has caused this? Their neighbor is Rwanda. If you recall, in Rwanda, I believe the year was 1994, a terrible genocide killed 800,000 people in the span of a matter of days. Those who were accused of the genocidal acts, many of them escaped into the neighboring country of Congo and set up their armed militias. They continued their violence. Not only is Goma an area the surrounding towns and villages fought over, it also happens to be an area that is dominated by a volcano which erupted in 2002 and killed hundreds of people and destroyed thousands of basic shelters. It is also an area filled with minerals and timber, gold, diamonds, basic minerals needed for the cell phones we take for granted every single day. There is money to be made, even if you just take out your shovel and dig into the hillside and find some of these for sale. It is a rich area in mineral resources.

It is also rich in other resources. Dian Fossey has her operation there for the silverback gorillas, which many of us have seen on television. They are caught in the middle of the crossfire of the civil war. I came back to Goma. I had been there several years ago. I was surprised at how many people said they remembered I had been there and never thought I would return because few people do; it is such a hard, difficult place. We visited a hospital there called Heal Africa. We were greeted by a lady with a British accent. As I came in, she said: Welcome back. I thought she made a mistake. She thinks I am somebody else. It turns out that, in fact, I had visited her hospital 5 years ago. It had changed so much, I didn't recognize it, but she was still there.

Her name is Lynne Lucy. Her husband Joe is a Congolese surgeon and they married years ago and decided to start a hospital for the poorest people in that part of Congo. They focus on children with club feet and cleft palates. They focus on trauma victims, setting fractures, victims of fires, and other accidents that occur. Their major area of focus is on the women who are the victims of the civil war. One of the most horrible things about this war isn't only that people die, but they have now built in hideous torture techniques as part of this civil war. Women are raped and gang raped and children are mutilated in hideous, awful ways. They bring them into this hospital and try to rebuild their bodies and rebuild their lives. God bless them for doing it, Joe and Lynne Lucy.

When I was there last, I worried because they only had a handful of doctors. This time I walked into a classroom filled with doctors. Standing in front of them was a doctor from the University of Wisconsin, right smack-dab in a part of the Midwest of which I am proud to be a part, training these doctors on how to treat these poor people. There is evidence of the caring and compassionate people of the United States all around the world. In this sad situation in Goma, certainly it is needed.

We have a 20,000-member U.N. peace-keeping force known as MONUC that has been in the area for more than 10 years trying to bring peace. Unfortunately, rebel groups continue campaigns of brutal violence. Known war criminals such as Jean Bosco Ntaganda continue to play a role in the violence, despite being wanted for awful war crimes. The Congolese military has tried to root out several groups but has embraced others. It is hard to figure out the good and bad people in this conflict. But you can certainly figure out the victims because you see them everywhere.

We went to what is known as an internally displaced persons camp just south of Goma. I find it hard to imagine how people live there. There are 1,800 people living there. Imagine that they are living on volcanic rock. It is hard to walk on it even with shoes because it is jagged and hurts your feet. They live on it. They pitch tents on it. They walk their kids to school on it. We went to a little health clinic there and a baby was handed to me that was a heartbreaking situation, clearly malnourished, who had just been brought in for a few days. They were trying to rescue its life. Many of the children there struggle with basic health needs. They have a school which is better than most would find in their home villages and some security. But each of them told me: We don't have enough food. You look at their sources of water, they are limited. It is a tough situation. These people are there because they were caught in the crossfire of a war that continues. They didn't do

anything wrong. Some of them are trying to rebuild their lives and stay safe in a very difficult situation.

Finally, we had a chance to visit Sudan. I wished to go there because I have stood on the floor so many times and given speeches about Darfur and the genocide that occurred there. In addition to that troubled part of Sudan, there has been an ongoing battle between north and south Sudan which appears to have resolved itself peacefully with an election that will be held in the near future for the national legislature and then early next year to decide if south Sudan will be a separate country. There are about 8 million people living in south Sudan. We traveled on the only road in south Sudan. We met with the man who is Vice President of Sudan now and would be President, I believe, of the new south Sudan, Mr. Salva Kiir. He is a former rebel who fought in the bush for years, surrounded by Governors in south Sudan who went through the same experience. In just a few months, they may need to build a nation. It is a daunting task.

I worry about it because when there is a power vacuum and a failed state in Africa, people move in on it and use it for exploitive and terrorist purposes.

We then went to Khartoum, which is a legendary city in Africa, and met with representatives of the government there, talking about many of the issues they face and the status of Darfur today which, thank God, is more peaceful than in years gone by. One of the more interesting conversations we had in Khartoum was with one of the Ministers. I brought up the issue of global warming, wondering if this man in the middle of Africa, near the Equator, felt there was a need for us to be concerned about global warming.

He said: I can take you 300 meters from where we are meeting now. I will show you the Nile River, and I will show you the impact of global warming. We could walk out into stretches of land that used to be islands in the middle of the river. You can walk there now because the river is so low. Many people in that part of Africa depend on the Nile for irrigation. We believe in global warming.

If you want to know one of the causes of the genocide in Darfur, it was because that area is becoming a desert, and people are fighting over what is left of land that can be cultivated. I think about debates we have had on the floor of the Senate. In fact, there are Senators who proudly say there is no such thing as global warming. I wish they could have been with me in Khartoum and spoken to this man about evidence he is seeing in that far-away place about changing climate and changes in lifestyle, genocide, and war that have followed global warming. It is not just an environmental issue. It is a security issue.

There are frequent debates about the value of U.S. foreign assistance. When Americans are asked, how much do we spend in foreign aid, the most common

response is, about 25 percent of the Federal budget. The fact is, it is just over 1 percent in foreign aid around the world. We spend far less as a percentage of our gross domestic product than many nations. But the work we do is so absolutely essential for maintaining life, fighting disease, for making certain that young people have a fighting chance.

President Obama recognizes that. I hope we can have bipartisan support to continue our help with foreign aid, even in this difficult time.

The last issue I will discuss on this trip Senator BROWN and I took is one I will save for a separate presentation. But without fail, in every African nation, I would ask them the same question: What is the presence of China in your nation? Without fail, they would say: It is interesting you would ask.

The Chinese are moving into Africa in a way we should not ignore. They are providing capital assistance and loans to countries all over Africa, which can provide them with minerals and resources for their economy and, ultimately, with markets for their products. Leaders in Africa, such as the President of Ethiopia, say to me: When the West walked away from Africa, China stepped in.

The Chinese have a strategy and a goal. If we don't become sensitive to it and what it will mean to the next generation of people living in each of those countries, we will pay a heavy price. We have to understand that these people now may be in underdeveloped countries and struggling, but tomorrow they will have a middle class, and they will be purchasing goods and services. They will remember that their highways and stadiums and schools were built with loans from the Chinese. Incidentally, those loans come with strings attached. When the Chinese loan money to a country such as Ethiopia, it is so a Chinese construction company can build the project using Chinese engineers, technicians, and workers. So they are providing work projects with the money they are loaning to each country and being repaid in local resources such as oil and minerals.

We can't ignore this reality. It is happening all over the world. The Chinese have a plan. I am not sure America has a plan. We should.

HANDLING OF TERRORIST SUSPECTS

Mr. President, in recent weeks, my Republican colleagues have directed a barrage of criticism at President Obama for his handling of terrorist cases, and I wish to respond.

Let's start with the recent case of Umar Faruk Abdulmutallab, the man who tried to explode a bomb on a plane around Christmas when it was landing in Detroit. My colleagues on the other side have been very critical of the FBI's decision to give Miranda warnings to Abdulmutallab.

The Republican minority leader recently said, referring to Abdulmutallab:

He was given a 50 minute interrogation, probably Larry King has interrogated people longer and better than that. After which he was assigned a lawyer who told him to shut up.

That is what the minority leader said. But here are the facts. Experienced counterterrorism agents from the FBI interrogated Abdulmutallab when he arrived in Detroit. According to the Justice Department, during this initial interrogation, the FBI "obtained intelligence that has already proved useful in the fight against Al Qaeda." After the interrogation, Abdulmutallab refused to cooperate further with the FBI. Only then, after his refusal, did the FBI give him a Miranda warning. What the FBI did in this case was nothing new. During the Bush administration, the FBI also gave Miranda warnings to terrorists detained in the United States.

I respect Senator MCCONNELL, but I say, respectfully, that he got his facts wrong as stated on the floor of the Senate. Frankly, this unfounded criticism of the FBI and their techniques should be corrected. That is why I stand here today.

Attorney General Eric Holder recently sent a detailed, 5-page letter to Senator MCCONNELL explaining what actually happened in this case.

I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2010.

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

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: I am writing in reply to your letter of January 26, 2010, inquiring about the decision to charge Umar Faruk Abdulmutallab with federal crimes in connection with the attempted bombing of Northwest Airlines Flight 253 near Detroit on December 25, 2009, rather than detaining him under the law of war. An identical response is being sent to the other Senators who joined in your letter.

The decision to charge Mr. Abdulmutallab in federal court, and the methods used to interrogate him, are fully consistent with the long-established and publicly known policies and practices of the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the United States Government as a whole, as implemented for many years by Administrations of both parties. Those policies and practices, which were not criticized when employed by previous Administrations, have been and remain extremely effective in protecting national security. They are among the many powerful weapons this country can and should use to win the war against al-Qaeda.

I am confident that, as a result of the hard work of the FBI and our career federal prosecutors, we will be able to successfully prosecute Mr. Abdulmutallab under the federal criminal law. I am equally confident that the decision to address Mr. Abdulmutallab's actions through our criminal justice system has not, and will not, compromise our ability to obtain information needed to detect and prevent future attacks. There are many examples of successful terrorism investigations