

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, first let me say thank you to the Senator from Michigan and the Senator from Kansas for conducting another very long session today on agriculture. They did an extraordinary job helping us move through this important bill. I thank them very much, and I know we are going to take that up tomorrow.

(The remarks of Ms. LANDRIEU pertaining to the introduction of S. 3321 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my comments, which will not be more than about 10 minutes, Senator BROWN of Ohio follow me for 10 minutes.

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

CALL FOR A SPECIAL COUNSEL

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, I stood in this Chamber and joined with Senator MCCAIN calling for the appointment of a Special Counsel to investigate the recent series of leaks of classified information that are so damaging to our national security. Despite the bipartisan support for a Special Counsel, the Attorney General chose instead to appoint 2 United States Attorneys who will act under his supervision and conduct separate investigations of just two of these leaks.

I believe the American people, our Intelligence Community, and our allies deserve a better response from the Attorney General and from this Administration. These leaks have violated the public trust and potentially damaged vital liaison relationships we can ill afford to lose in our fight against ongoing threats from terrorism and hostile nations.

As I understand it, one prosecutor will investigate the leak on the AQAP bomb plot; the other, the leak on STUXNET. That's a real problem. This means other leaks, including the "kill list" story, will not be investigated. Yesterday, the Washington Post published a story that attributed information about apparent joint U.S.-Israeli cyber efforts to a former high-ranking U.S. intelligence official. It would sure be helpful if a Special Counsel had jurisdiction to look at all of these cases.

The timing, substance, and sourcing of these stories have also raised questions about whether they came from the White House and whether there is a pattern of leaks. It's hard to imagine how two U.S. Attorneys who work for this administration will be able to investigate this aspect of the case without being perceived as biased by those who are unhappy with what they ultimately find. We need a Special Counsel who will be trusted, no matter what he finds.

I am not questioning in any way the qualifications of these U.S. Attorneys

to do the jobs for which they were confirmed by this Senate. I know questions have been raised about the prior political activities of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia and whether he might be too deferential to the White House. I have no specific reason to question the capabilities or integrity of either of these men. But the very serious nature of these leaks demands an investigation that is conducted in a manner totally above reproach and without any possible inference of bias.

Unfortunately, because these U.S. Attorneys must answer to the Attorney General, they cannot conduct independent investigations. With each key decision they make—whether to subpoena a journalist, what investigative techniques should be used, what charges can be brought—they will be subject to the Attorney General and his direction. That is hardly independent.

Last week, the Attorney General testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee that appointing a U.S. Attorney was the same thing that was done in the Valerie Plame case. I submit that was an entirely different scenario because in that case, Mr. Fitzgerald, who was a special counsel appointed, insisted on getting written confirmation that he would be truly independent from the then-acting Attorney General. He got that confirmation in writing from then-Acting Attorney General Comey.

Significantly, the Plame case involved a single leak of classified information, and was deemed serious enough to warrant an independent investigation. The former President also ordered his staff to come forward with any information they had about the source of the leak.

In this case, there have been a series of incredibly damaging leaks in articles citing "senior Administration officials" and White House "aides." We have seen no clear instructions from this Administration for officials to come forward. This situation seems to create a greater appearance of a conflict of interest for the Attorney General than was presented in the Plame investigation and calls out for the appointment of Special Counsel.

The Attorney General also testified that he could always appoint these U.S. Attorneys as Special Counsel if they needed to investigate acts outside their jurisdictions. Others have made the argument that we have to wait to see if these U.S. Attorneys do their jobs well before appointing a Special Counsel. Neither argument makes sense to me. Why on earth would we wait?

All of these leaks should be investigated together—not separately—and they must be investigated now. The leaks are relatively recent and the trail is still somewhat fresh. But if we have to wait to see how these men measure up, or if the trail takes us to a district outside their specific juris-

diction, we run the risk of losing evidence or memories fading. Those aren't risks anyone should be willing to take.

This is not, and must not become, political. It's about finding these criminals who have jeopardized our national security and ensuring that they are brought to justice in an independent, objective, apolitical investigation.

Again, I call on the Attorney General to do now what should have been done 2 weeks ago. This series of leaks should not be treated as business as usual. As Congress considers legislative solutions to put a stop to these leaks, the administration needs to step up its response. Appointing a special counsel who can independently and comprehensively investigate all of these leaks and find who is responsible for any and all of them is the best way to restore the public trust in our government and our government officials.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

CHILD NUTRITION

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, for many Ohio children, schools have let out for the year, and summer vacation is just beginning. During the school year, in my State—a State of about 11 million people—840,000 Ohio children receive some nutrition assistance through free or reduced-price school lunches or breakfasts during the school year. It is a statistic that tells the story of families struggling to get by. In many of these children's cases their parents have jobs but simply are not making enough money. It is a statistic that tells a story of how children are often helpless victims in a challenging economy. Many of these children come from the 18 percent of Ohio families—about 1 out of 6—who are food insecure. Essentially it means they are unsure where their next meal may actually come from. When the school year comes to a close, many of these children go hungry.

Where can these 840,000 students go? Where do they turn for nutritious meals when their school cafeterias are closed for the summer? The answer is the Summer Food Service Program run through the U.S. Department of Education and administered in my State by the Ohio Department of Education. For Ohio parents and guardians and school administrators, the Summer Food Service Program is available for them to find healthy meals for children during the summer. But too many Ohio families don't know about this critical program, and that is why it is so important to raise awareness and increase access to the program for all Ohio children regardless of where they live. Summer break shouldn't mean a break from good nutrition.

At the beginning of this talk, I mentioned that 840,000 Ohio children benefit from free and reduced school breakfast and lunch programs—840,000. But, unfortunately, last year in the

summer only 66,000 Ohio children utilized the Summer Food Service Program. Only 66,000 when there are 800,000 eligible. I believe last year Ohio was slightly above the national average. So in State after State, of those students who were benefiting from the free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches at the school, less than 10 percent of those children benefit in the summer.

In Ohio, only 66,000 children utilize this program. Obviously hundreds of thousands need to receive nutrition assistance during the school year. Ensuring that our children have access to healthy food during the summer is so important, especially as more families slip into poverty. The Summer Food Program is a vital program that helps stem the crippling cycle of food insecurity by providing school-aged children breakfast, lunch, or a snack during the summer.

In some sites children can receive these meals while participating in educational activities or organized games. The Presiding Officer was a superintendent of one of the great school districts in the country. We know particularly how low-income students during summer months slide back in their educational attainment. In the beginning of the school year, the teachers have to sort of reteach what was taught perhaps in April and May. We also know that in families with a little higher income, the children often have activities in the summer which include exposure to books, magazines, vacations, and cultural events to help those children continue to advance in the summer.

Many of these students who are not getting proper nutrition in the summer also are not getting the educational challenges they need. That is why at these sites children—while they receive these meals—participate in educational activities or organized games. The good news is there are more sites this year for Ohio families to turn to. There are more than 1,700 sites across 77 counties.

Nonetheless, 11 counties out of the 88 in Ohio still lack feeding sites. It is not too late for program sites to be established. The official deadline was May 31. Interested sponsors and volunteers can still work with the Ohio Department of Education to establish new centers for children to get meals.

Understand the difficulty here. Somebody needs to step forward, such as a teacher, an administrator, someone in the school district, someone in a church, someone in a recreation center of some type has to step forward every May or June and set up one of these programs and take it down again in August or September. So it is unlike the school district which has this built into its process.

At existing sites, such as schools, summer camps, churches, community centers, and recreation centers, volunteers spend their time ensuring our children have the food they need to succeed.

The Federal Government will reimburse local groups small amounts of money for the breakfast, snack, or lunch for these children, but volunteers need to come forward.

Two years ago I co-hosted a first-of-its-kind hunger summit at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank in Columbus with leading antihunger advocates across Ohio. This past year the USDA Under Secretary Kevin Concannon came to Ohio to hold the second summit.

We continue to reach out to organizations such as the AmeriCorps and VISTA Summer Association Partnership that can help with volunteers through AmeriCorps and can set up the programs and provide meals to the children in need.

This summer will be an important few months to learn how far we have come and how far we have to go in serving our State's children. Outreach and public awareness are critical components to ensure that the end of the school year doesn't mean the end of children getting the nutrition they need for the summer.

I yield the floor, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, before going into wrap-up and the unanimous consent requests this evening, I wish to say one more time how appreciative I am of everybody's hard work and patience with us. We made tremendous progress on a very important bill that helps 16 million people in this country have a job and keeps the safest, most affordable food system in the world going. So thanks to everyone. Thanks to my ranking member who has been a terrific partner with me.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

CONGRATULATING KENTUCKY'S NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WINNERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a group of Kentucky's brightest students who, by winning a number of prestigious awards for studying history, have proven themselves to be the leaders of the future. I am referring to the Kentucky winners of the National History Day 2012 contest, which was recently held at nearby College Park, MD, June 10 to 14.

The contingent of students from Kentucky that made the trip was selected

by the Kentucky Junior Historical Society, which held a statewide history contest in Frankfort, the State capital, last April. At that event, 68 Kentucky students qualified for the national finals.

In all, 62 Kentucky students from the 6th through 12th grades made the trip to our Nation's capital region, accompanied by about 40 family members and teachers. I was very pleased to have a chance to visit with them during their trip.

The group faced stiff competition. At National History Day 2012, there were 2,800 students competing, representing all 50 States and four international schools. Six Kentucky students stood out from their peers and garnered nationwide recognition for their history projects. Those students are:

Joanna Slusarewicz, of Winburn Middle School and Fayette County, winner of the Salute to Freedom Award and third place, individual documentary, junior division. Her entry was titled "Respectfully Submitted, Dorothea Dix."

Neha Kadambi and Jamie Smith, of Winburn Middle School and Fayette County, winners of the Leadership in History Award for group exhibit, junior division. Their entry was titled "The Fight Without a War: India's Revolutionary Road to Independence."

Meenakshi Singhal and Daryn Smith, of Winburn Middle School and Fayette County, winners of Best of State: Junior Division. Their entry was titled "Charles Darwin: What Do You Mean Survival of the Fittest?"

Emma Roach-Barrette, of Menifee County High School and Menifee County, winner of Best of State: Senior Division and individual documentary, senior division finalist. Her entry was titled "Dead Men Do Tell Tales."

Every student from Kentucky who made this trip can be immensely proud of his or her accomplishments, and I hope they will continue to engage in the study of history for the remainder of their time in school and beyond. History plays such a large role in the events of today. We continue to be influenced by historic decisions made in this very Chamber.

I also appreciate these students' teachers for helping to foster their love of history, specifically, Theresa Buczek and Michelle Cason of Winburn Middle School and Debra Craver of Menifee County High School. And I want to thank the Kentucky Junior Historical Society and its parent body, the Kentucky Historical Society, for sponsoring this competition and making the trip possible for these students. Established in 1836, the Kentucky Historical Society is committed to helping Kentuckians understand, cherish, and share history.

I know my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Kentucky's winners of the National History Day 2012 contest and of every Kentucky student who competed.