

the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Christopher A. Coons, Charles E. Schumer, John D. Rockefeller IV, Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, Dianne Feinstein, Bill Nelson, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Al Franken, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed occur on Monday, September 8, when the Senate resumes legislative session following confirmation of the Pryor nomination.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent 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.

BORDER CRISIS

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I wish to express my bitter disappointment in the Senate for refusing to move forward with the President's request for emergency funding to deal with the humanitarian crisis we are facing on our southern border with Texas.

Ordinary working people do not close up shop with urgent work still undone, and neither should we. There is plenty of blame to go around; as I speak, there is a strong chance the House will leave town without taking action on this crisis either. The administration has asked for money, but has yet to speak clearly on what changes it needs in the law governing how we handle child migrants at the border.

As we all know, over the past several months, our Nation has experienced an unprecedented surge in migration from three countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. People from these countries are fleeing desperate, violent conditions and a large number of them are families, and unaccompanied children—some as young as 4 years old.

The President and Department of Homeland Secretary, DHS, Johnson responded with an all-hands-on-deck effort. The Federal Emergency Management Administration, FEMA, is coordinating the response to the problem. The Department of Defense is providing emergency beds for unaccompanied minors. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has greatly expanded its ability to detain and remove families. We have surged Border Patrol agents, immigration judges, and other

personnel to the border to help process people.

These measures have been working. For example, the amount of time people are detained before they are removed has decreased from over a month to as little as 4 days in recent weeks. Migrant children who were languishing in crowded border patrol stations are being screened and relocated more quickly. But these emergency measures are expensive, and none of the Federal agencies involved have the money they need to sustain the aggressive steps they are taking to deal with this situation. In fact, many agencies have indicated that they will run out of money in a matter of weeks without action—some even in a few days.

So last week, Senator MIKULSKI introduced a bill that would provide \$2.7 billion in order to address the situation and ensure that the agencies charged with securing our borders do not run out of money this summer. More importantly, it would also address some of the underlying root causes of the problem we face.

But here we are, the day before Congress leaves town, and what have we done to address this crisis? The answer is nothing.

The consequences of our inaction will be severe. Let me give you some examples of what will happen if Congress continues to do nothing.

Families apprehended at the border will be released. Why? Because Immigration and Customs Enforcement does not have the money to add the 3,000 detention beds it needs to house families until they can be returned to their countries;

Undocumented migrants scheduled to be deported will stay here. Why? Because ICE won't have the money for transportation.

People currently being detained will have to be released. Why? Because ICE will have to reduce its detention population.

Undocumented immigrants waiting for their immigration court cases to be heard will have to wait longer. Why? Because we are not adding the 40 immigration court judges that the administration requested.

We also will not be able to hire the 82 immigration prosecutors and 100 repatriation personnel that DHS was planning to hire in August. Why? Because we will not be able to afford them.

Health and Human Services will have to cut back on the number of children it can house. This means that children will have to stay at Border Patrol stations longer and agents will be forced to care for children instead of patrolling the border. Why? Because Health and Human Services will not have the money it needs.

I am frankly stunned that we here in Congress do not have a sense of urgency to pass this bill and make sure that this does not happen. I guess my colleagues believe that we can just move money around in order to patch the holes in these agencies' budgets. We are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Because of Congress' inaction, the administration will be forced to ask for an emergency reprogramming to get the agencies through August. But this reprogramming will also have severe consequences—consequences that I do not think many of our colleagues seem to understand.

Our border security will be reduced. Why? Because CBP will have to cut back on aerial support for Border Patrol agents on the border. When I was in Texas and Arizona last year, I heard frontline agents say again and again that aerial support was the single most important force multiplier that they had available to help them secure the border.

People and commerce trying to get into this country will be forced to longer delays and intrusive screenings at our ports of entry. Why? Because CBP will have to take money that was going to be used to fund sophisticated scanning equipment to pay for caring for unaccompanied children at the border.

The Coast Guard will have to stop doing maintenance on many of our Coast Guard vessels. Why? Because the Coast Guard's funds will be shifted.

FEMA will have less money for disaster response just as folks in coastal states, like Delaware, are gearing up for the height of hurricane season. Why? Because DHS will have to raid its Disaster Relief Fund in order to make ends meet.

This is no way to respond to a crisis—a crisis—that we have been talking and talking and talking about here in the Senate for months!

Finally—and in my mind, most incredibly—we will leave here without doing anything to address the underlying factors that explain why this surge is happening in the first place. The President and Senator MIKULSKI included \$300 million in the supplemental package to address what I believe to be the root causes of this surge: the lack of economic opportunities, jobs, and hope in Central America, combined with increasing violence and insecurity in the region. Make no mistake about it, these funds are an emergency.

I am not suggesting that any of this will be a quick or easy fix. It will require a sustained investment—and focus—on the region by the U.S. and also by a number of others. But if we turn our backs on these countries now, I am convinced that we will be back here again 10 years from now dealing with another expensive humanitarian crisis on our border.

But today, we are left empty-handed, and all by our own doing. Again, we have been seeing this humanitarian crisis play out for months now. We have heard the heartbreaking stories of the Central American children and families arriving at our borders.

I believe that we have a moral imperative here to address this crisis with a humane response and one that honors our obligations under U.S. and international law—and is consistent with the

admonition that we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves while taking care of the least of these in society.

We have not even come close to meeting the moral imperative and I am deeply disappointed.

Over the next few weeks and into September, I urge my colleagues in both Chambers to think about “the least of these” that we have left behind today and to work harder to come together and find a compromise to this challenge. I also urge the administration to speak more clearly about what it needs, and to work with us to find a path to get it done.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. HAGAN. Madam President, I was necessarily absent from the Senate on July 31, 2014.

I missed rollcall votes in relation to the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to S. 2648, the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to H.R. 3230, adoption of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 3230, the motion to recede from the Senate amendment to H.R. 5021, and the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jill Pryor, of Georgia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to S. 2648. I would have voted in favor of the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to H.R. 3230, adoption of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 3230, the motion to recede from the Senate amendment to H.R. 5021, and the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jill Pryor, of Georgia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM V. HUFFMAN

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing William “Bill” Huffman, the director of Government Relations for Farmers’ Rice Cooperative, who is retiring after a distinguished career that has spanned more than five decades.

Bill Huffman’s roots to rice date back to his childhood. He was raised on his family’s rice farm in Gridley, located in the heart of California’s rice country the Sacramento Valley. Bill later attended Humboldt State University and graduated with a degree in radio/television before going to work for a Sacramento radio station as a farm broadcaster.

Following his career in broadcasting, Bill worked in the government, agricultural, and financial sectors and then joined Farmers’ Rice Cooperative, California’s largest rice marketing firm, representing more than 700 rice growers.

During his 30-year career with Farmers’ Rice, Bill promoted one of the Golden State’s most important crops with pride and skill, advocating for important public policy issues on behalf of California’s rice industry. Each week, growers could depend upon his summary of important local, State, and Federal news impacting the rice industry in “Bill Huffman’s News of the Week” blog. In addition to tirelessly representing Northern California’s rice growers, Bill also helped lead disaster relief efforts to donate rice overseas following the tragic 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia. In recognition of all of his outstanding accomplishments, Bill was awarded the California Rice Industry Award by the California Cooperative Rice Research Foundation in 2009.

I had the pleasure getting to know Bill well during his time with Farmers’ Rice Cooperative. We worked together to promote California’s high-quality rice, protect important conservation programs, and encourage sustainable rice farming. Bill has been a strong voice for our rice growers, and I wish my friend the best as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement with his wife Sheila, their four children, and three grandchildren.

Thank you.●

REMEMBERING JOHN VASCONCELLOS

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of John Vasconcellos, a giant in California politics and government who died on May 24 at the age of 82. John made the personal political and took politics personally. He was a compassionate and caring human being who brought all of his humanity to the job of governance.

John Bernard Vasconcellos, Jr., was born in San Jose, CA in 1932. After graduating with high honors from Bellarmine College Preparatory and Santa Clara University, John spent 2 years in the Army before returning to Santa Clara for law school, where he again graduated at the top of his class.

John became interested in politics while serving on Governor Pat Brown’s reelection campaign staff during Brown’s epic 1962 race against Richard Nixon.

In 1966, John was elected to the California State Assembly, beginning a record 38 years of uninterrupted service in the Legislature.

In the assembly, John was known for his visionary idealism, brilliant intellect, and tough pragmatism. His mastery of budget issues led to his chairmanship of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, where he championed State investment in education. His deep interest in psychology led to the establishment of the California Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility.

When term limits forced John to leave the assembly in 1996, he was

elected to the State senate. As chair of the senate committees on education and aging, he championed new investments in K–12, higher education and long-term care while winning bipartisan praise for his careful fiscal stewardship.

In 2004, term limits ended John’s legislative career, but he did not retire. Joining with a group of friends and supporters, he established the Vasconcellos Legacy Project, VLP, an organization “dedicated to the proposition that positive political change is possible, especially because we human beings are innately inclined toward the good.” Through research and advocacy, the VLP has sought to overcome political polarization and cynicism to create a new “Politics of Trust.”

Throughout his long and distinguished life in politics, John Vasconcellos demanded expected the best from himself, his colleagues, and our democracy. He was one of a kind, and he will be truly missed. I extend my deepest condolences to his loving extended family and many friends and admirers.●

REMEMBERING THEODORE VAN KIRK

• Mr. CASEY. Madam President, Theodore “Dutch” Van Kirk died on July 28, 2014, at the age of 93. A native of Northumberland, PA, he served his country with distinction during a difficult time for our Nation and the world. I ask that the following story from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, July 30, 2014]

OBITUARY: THEODORE “DUTCH” VANKIRK/
WWII AIRMAN WHOSE CREW DROPPED ATOMIC BOMB ON JAPAN, FEB. 27, 1921–JULY 28, 2014

(By Joe Smydo)

At first, Theodore “Dutch” VanKirk and the other airmen aboard the Enola Gay feared the atomic bomb they had dropped on Japan was a dud.

But after what seemed like an interminable wait, “there was a bright flash in the air,” Mr. VanKirk recounted in a 2012 book. The B-29 rocked from the shock waves, a white mushroom cloud shot into the sky, and the devastation became clear even from the crew’s vantage point thousands of feet in the air.

“The ground was covered with thick black smoke and dust and dirt,” he said. “It looked like a pot of boiling black oil covering practically the entire city of Hiroshima.”

Mr. VanKirk, 93, a Northumberland, Pa., native and the last surviving member of the crew that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, a secret mission credited with bringing World War II to an end, died Monday in suburban Atlanta. He had experienced vascular difficulties.

Thomas VanKirk of Mt. Lebanon said his father was handpicked by the Enola Gay’s pilot, Paul Tibbets, to serve as navigator on the bombing run. The two had met and served together in England years earlier.

After the war, Mr. VanKirk received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemical engineering from Bucknell University and was