

of the Koch brothers, America is turning into one. And what does the Republican leader do? He sticks a provision in this legislation to protect them even further.

Current Federal law requires publicly traded corporations to disclose financial details on their annual report to shareholders, such as how much they are paying their executive officers and others, but shareholders—the true owners of corporations—have no idea how much money is being spent on politics, being directed by a few in the corporations. The Securities and Exchange Commission does not require this to be reported.

Last August, 44 Democratic Senators sent a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission in support of adding political disclosures in their annual shareholder reports. The Republican leader wants to stop this. He wants to do everything he can to protect the Koch brothers. But the Securities and Exchange Commission received 1 million public comments in support of disclosure because it protects the interests of investors—1 million comments. That is unheard of.

The Republicans in the Senate are opposed to disclosure. That is why the Republican leader has attached this so-called rider to the government funding bill to prevent shareholders from knowing how their money is spent and being used in the political process. Republicans are holding the government hostage because they want to keep the political system awash in dark money. They want to give contributions to the Chamber of Commerce, the National Rifle Association, and on and on—millions and millions of dollars.

The Senate Republicans need to rethink their priorities. Republicans need to spend less time worrying about the balance in their campaign accounts and more time protecting their fellow Americans, especially those in Flint, MI.

Madam President, I see my friend the senior Senator from Iowa on the floor. Before he speaks, will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5325, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 5082, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 5083 (to amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5084 (to amendment No. 5083), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5085 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5086 (to amendment No. 5085), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 5087, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5088 (to the instructions) amendment No. 5087), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5089 (to amendment No. 5088), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

IOWA FLOODS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, natural disasters happen. Eight years ago, Senator Harkin and I had to deal with flooding in Eastern Iowa. Today Senator ERNST and I are called upon to observe—as we did this past weekend—a great amount of flooding in Eastern Iowa. Earlier this year, we also heard the Senators from West Virginia and the Senators from Louisiana speak about the natural disasters in their State. It was only 8 years ago that I was on the floor talking about the record devastation caused by severe storms and floods. Many of the same places are currently experiencing similar flooding as rivers are cresting at record or near-record levels.

On Saturday, I toured several cities with the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and Members of the Iowa congressional delegation, including Senator ERNST. We saw debris and damage left by receding floodwaters, many homes underwater, and great flood fight preparations.

Many businesses and individual volunteers have been working tirelessly to help prevent damage to both public and private property and to help clean up. Today I had a discussion with the mayor of Greene, IA, about the numbers of high schools that are closed in that area, but the kids are coming in to help clean up in the city of Greene, IA. This is the Iowa way. I thank those who have helped and will provide assistance in the future.

Since the floods of 2008, many lessons have been learned. Plans and training to protect Iowa communities are in place. I am pleased to report that the mitigation through Federal, State, and local resources that has taken place throughout Iowa since the floods of 2008 has been beneficial. This has already proven effective and will lessen the impact of this year's floods. It is estimated that more than \$50 million of reduced impact will be experienced because of previous mitigation efforts. However, as we learned this weekend, so much remains to be done.

Iowa's second largest city, Cedar Rapids, experienced massive devastation, with more than 1,300 city blocks covered in water and over \$32 billion worth of damages from the floods of

2008. Today, as a result of massive amounts of rain upstream over the last few days, the city of Cedar Rapids is fighting to prepare for the high crest on the Cedar River, second only to 2008. Cedar Rapids is doing everything it can to protect its citizens by using HESCO barriers, earthen levees, and berms. However, a permanent solution through permanent flood control structures is still very much needed.

Even prior to the 2008 floods, the protection of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids was identified as needing evaluation. In 2006, Congress authorized a flood risk management feasibility study with the feasibility cost share arrangement being signed on May 30, 2008. Since then, the feasibility study was completed and alternatives were chosen, although this Federal project protects only a portion of Cedar Rapids. I worked to get the construction of the project authorized in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. That happened to be the first WRDA bill since 2007. However, funding has been difficult to obtain since the benefit-cost ratio is just over one from the point of view of the Corps of Engineers' scoring.

I am pleased the Senate instructed the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite this and three other flood damage reduction and flood risk management projects in the recently passed Water Resources Development Act.

Also in this year's act, the Senate passed an amendment to the bill that I was pleased to cosponsor with my colleague, Senator ERNST, requiring the Government Accountability Office to study the Army Corps of Engineers' methodology and performance metrics used to calculate benefit-cost ratios when evaluating construction projects.

I have heard from Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and several other places in Iowa regarding their concerns about how the Corps calculates the benefit of structures and that mitigation and future savings is not a strong factor in determining flood risk management.

Let me say that as I talk to people in Iowa—but particularly in Cedar Rapids, IA—about the cost-benefit ratio, mitigation, and future savings not being taken so much into consideration, it is something that they just do not understand. I recognize that this is a complex issue and that the Corps rarely gets enough funding to maintain and operate what it owns, let alone start numerous construction projects. I also recognize the need to have a rationale on how to prioritize projects when there are scarce resources, and I have been supportive of these efforts.

However, a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work when dealing with flood protection. This is the most difficult thing to explain to people in Cedar Rapids, IA. It is a necessity to more accurately quantify future benefits and the protection of citizens when making benefit-cost ratios. We also need to find a way to expedite these flood projects so it doesn't take 20 to 40

years to study, design, and build—and it seems as if it takes forever to get completed.

Again, Iowans—especially the people of Cedar Rapids—when they are faced with severe, repeated flooding, don't understand why the Federal Government does not prioritize flood risk management and mitigation instead of spending emergency money to fight, recover, and then put them back in the same position as they were before. That money was spent in 2008—maybe not as much money, but still a great deal of money was spent this year—and still they are in the same position. That is what is not seemed to be understood. This money would be better spent actually mitigating the problem and protecting citizens and their property.

I have heard of similar concerns all across the United States, not just in Iowa. My staff has surveyed articles from Louisiana, Texas, New Jersey, and Idaho, all stating similar concerns. I am sure that if we continued to look, we would find others as well.

I call on the Army Corps of Engineers to carefully evaluate how they can improve their areas of flood control policy. Reforms have taken place to expedite the study, planning, and report process, but reforms are needed to how they make these determinations.

I also call on the Office of Management and Budget and my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to change the way the Army Corps of Engineers receives its funding. Every part of the Corps' budget could be considered an earmark under Senate rules. Therefore, it is very hard to advocate for the needs of the Corps' districts and projects within Congress without violating the earmark ban. As a result, the primary decision about what is included in the Corps' budget rests with the President's budget each year. I am not advocating to bring back earmarks for specific projects but to fund the Corps in a programmatic way or by district to allow Congress to exercise its oversight over funding decisions. All branches need to be held accountable for spending decisions, including the Federal bureaucracy. Congress should have the power of the purse for funding decisions of such importance to the people we represent, not just some bureaucrat.

Retired MG Tom Sands, who was a commanding General of the Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Mississippi Valley Division and president of the Mississippi River Commission, in a blog for *The Hill* newspaper on September 7 of this year, wrote:

No doubt the rationale for the current uniform approach [at the Corps] is to foster "fairness." But federal water policy would be better focused on how to quantify and achieve superior outcomes. This new approach needs to focus more on common sense than on bureaucratic decisions.

As I have based my work as a public servant on Iowa's common sense, not bureaucratic nonsense, I couldn't have

said it better than General Sands, so I associate myself with his remarks.

I yield the floor.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD A. PAUL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been said that nations that forget its defenders will be itself forgotten. Well, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of those defenders who fought for and secured our freedom during World War II. First, I want to commend Richard Paul for his brave actions and quiet courage—and thank him for a debt that we can never fully repay. I also want to wish him an early happy birthday. On October 23, Richard Paul, first lieutenant of the 13th Army Air Force—from Quincy, IL—will turn 100 years old. What an achievement.

Today, I am honored to share his story. Let me take you back to November 29, 1942. On that November day, in the midst of World War II, rather than waiting to have his draft number called, Richard drove down to the nearest Army Air Force Cadet Training Program in Peoria, IL, and volunteered to serve. The next day, he was sworn into the program and told to await further orders. In January 1943, Richard received his orders and reported to Decatur, IL.

After stints in Jefferson Barracks, MO, and Galesburg, IL, Richard found himself in Texas for pilot training. On March 12, 1944, Richard graduated from flight school and spent the next 7 weeks in Liberal, KS, learning to fly the B-24 Liberator, an American bomber with the greatest bomb load carrying capacity and longest range of its time. By the spring of 1944, First Lieutenant Richard Paul and his crew flew B-24 Liberators on 36 combat missions, including two recon missions in the South Pacific theater. Richard also received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating and supporting military operations in an aerial flight.

Although he didn't know it at the time, on March 20, 1945, Richard flew his final mission. The following day, he was told he was going back to the

States. For all his wartime accomplishments, I think Richard would agree that his greatest achievement happened in flight school, marrying Esther Viola Jewell, who he simply called Vi. After getting permission from his base commander, the chaplain picked Richard and his bride up from the hotel she was staying at in Independence, KS. There was one problem: Richard and Vi didn't have witnesses. So Richard rushed back to the barracks and found two cadets to fill in. Disaster averted. And on Christmas Eve 1943, Richard and Vi were married. They would spend the next 64 Christmases together before Vi passed on December 14, 2008.

We owe a great debt to veterans like Richard, who came home after the war and built this Nation. When the war ended, Richard first looked for work as a pilot at a Minneapolis airline. But despite his incredible experience, he was told they received nearly 100 applications from former Army pilots every day and did not have enough jobs. Well, it was the airline's loss and a blessing for the people of Quincy. The following year, Richard became a pharmacist and spent the next 44 years working in Quincy at the Brown Drug Company—the same Brown Drug Company Vi worked at in 1940.

There are many advantages of having 100 years on Earth, but on top of the list may be the ability to spread love in so many ways. Whether it was through love of country—while serving as first lieutenant in the 13th Air Force during World War II; love of community—spending 44 years as a pharmacist at the Brown Drug Company; or love of family, raising 4 daughters with his wife, Vi, 8 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren—what an extraordinary legacy.

I will close with this: I have heard the first 100 years are the hardest. But I am reminded of what an old ball player once said: "Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter." So when the big day arrives, I hope Richard celebrates with friends and family—and enjoys it. He has earned it.

Thank you, Richard, for your service and sacrifice, and congratulations on an outstanding milestone.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate will soon consider S. amendment No. 5082, which provides for continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, full-year appropriations for military construction and veterans programs, and