

I appreciate the patience of my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Very briefly, Mr. President, this supplemental will be the last vote of the evening and for the week. We will be here tomorrow to continue business on Commerce-Justice-Science. Amendments can be offered either tonight or tomorrow. There will be no rollcall votes tomorrow. We will be voting on Monday. Instead of 5:30, it will be a little later than that. We will announce that specific time on Monday.

We will finish Commerce-Justice-Science early next week. Senators should not wait to offer amendments. Either offer them tonight or tomorrow. We will wrap this bill up in the very early part of next week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLEN). The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 223 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Akaka	Dodd	Martinez
Alexander	Dole	McCain
Allard	Domenici	McConnell
Allen	Dorgan	Mikulski
Baucus	Durbin	Murkowski
Bayh	Ensign	Murray
Bennett	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Feinstein	Obama
Bond	Frist	Pryor
Boxer	Graham	Reed
Brownback	Grassley	Reid
Bunning	Gregg	Roberts
Burns	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burr	Harkin	Salazar
Byrd	Hatch	Santorum
Cantwell	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Carper	Inhofe	Schumer
Chafee	Isakson	Sessions
Chambliss	Jeffords	Shelby
Clinton	Johnson	Smith
Coburn	Kennedy	Snowe
Cochran	Kerry	Kohl
Coleman	Kohl	Specter
Collins	Kyl	Stabenow
Conrad	Landrieu	Sununu
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Talent
Corzine	Leahy	Thomas
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Voinovich
Dayton	Lincoln	Warner
DeMint	Lott	Wyden
DeWine	Lugar	

NOT VOTING—3

Inouye	Stevens	Vitter
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The bill (H.R. 3673) was passed.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

Mr. DURBIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from West Virginia for his cooperation in the development and presentation of this bill to the Senate. I also especially thank the Congressman from California, JERRY LEWIS, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and his colleagues on that committee, both Democrat and Republican, who helped get that bill passed today in the House of Representatives. We appreciate the prompt action on the President's request. We thank all Senators for their cooperation in agreeing to the expedited procedure for consideration of the bill today and passing the bill. This will get needed relief to the disaster victims in coastal States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, the Gulf Coast, and others who have been injured and victimized by this disaster. We thank the leadership for scheduling the bill and for supporting our efforts to get the bill done today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

POSTDISASTER RESPONSE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to discuss, for a moment on the record, what I have been telling some Senators individually and in groups about the management of postdisaster activities in the Gulf Coast area. Let me begin by saying that I am not going to add to the various discussions being had about who should decide what persons, if any, made mistakes in terms of controlling this disaster, the scourge of this hurricane. Did somebody not do what they were supposed to do or did somebody do it too late? If so, who was it, when did the mistake occur, and why did the person act as they did? That is, who was at fault in responding to this natural disaster, if anyone. I am not talking about that. I hear the rancor and the partisanship in the discussion about who should do that.

I am talking about the fact that we have now the most difficult situation that America on its homeland has ever had to manage. We have never had anything as difficult as this to manage—the confusion, disrepair, individual suffering, displacement, hardship, property destruction, pollution. All of those things affected literally hundreds of thousands of people in three-plus States. We are currently in the immediate aftermath of the force that brought all those things upon us as a nation.

How many people have been displaced—sometimes called refugees, but they will not be referred to as such by me—how many men, women, and children? I understand that the numbers displaced due to a natural disaster before this did not exceed 30,000. It was something under 30,000. For this one disaster, there were over 450,000 people

displaced. Anybody who thinks that what we have in place to manage a crisis of this magnitude is fine doesn't understand the proportions of this event. We don't have in place the tools, the wherewithal, the ability to manage this problem—not from the time of its arrival and not now, as we work to gradually make the situation better for everybody, to a point in time that we can take a deep breath and say: We have done as much as we can for as many as we can, and as far as our country and its people and its businesses and its charities are concerned, we have completed the task of responding to this emergency.

We don't have any way of doing that. Anybody who is sitting around here contemplating the work of its committee, be it a chairman of a committee or the chairman of a subcommittee, and thinking they know how to do that, let me tell you, they don't. I regret to say it. In all deference, I am one of those chairmen. I have a standing committee and a subcommittee. They are both involved in this event. One is Energy and Natural Resources. The other is Appropriations for Energy and Water, which is literally all the energy around there, pipelines and the like, and the Corps of Engineers. So I could be saying I will do my share. I will start having hearings. But I submit that this work that I would do and that any other committee of the Congress would do is as apt to be meaningless or wrong or moving in the wrong direction, when looked at a year from now, as it is to be appropriate.

It isn't that we are doing anything wrong; it is that we don't know what our goal is. We don't know where we are going. We know people need checks. We know people need money. We know people need accelerated Social Security and Medicaid benefits. We also know people need housing. But does that mean we should hold a hearing in the housing Appropriations Committee and decide: Here is a new program. We are going to fund the program. It will be grants and loans, 100,000 new houses for these people? Of course it doesn't mean that at all.

We need somebody to put the plan together and decide what the housing situation is going to be like for these people. Do we need interim help? Will that be vouchers? And who will start putting that together? I could go on. This is not because anybody has not done their job. Forget about that. Whatever the job that was to be done, right or wrong, is finished. What you have to do now is rehabilitate, replan, and put in place what must be done within the laws of America, with the dollars of our taxpayers.

I came here in 1972, believe it or not. I was 39 years old. I don't know how I got here or why I was here. I got a great big assignment, one committee, Public Works. You new Senators who worry about your committee assignments these days, I only had one. I got

a very auspicious job, too. I was ranking committee member on a subcommittee on disaster relief. I thought: Well, I will never have a hearing, but when I have been here long enough, I will go to another committee.

But lo and behold, Agnes hit. Agnes was a giant hurricane that caused a Northeastern flood, all the way through Pennsylvania. Sure enough, I went to work. I learned about disasters.

But what I also learned was that through the good wisdom of a Senator, who, as I now understand it, was Hugh Scott, the minority leader from Pennsylvania—he used to sit over here when we had very few seats on this side of the Aisle—he talked Richard Nixon into appointing a man to be in charge of the Agnes recovery named Frank Carlucci. You've all heard his name of late. However they found him, I don't know. They must have been clairvoyant; they must have known he was something super. He was President's Nixon's on the ground representative for Agnes for 3 or 4 years, and we came out of that. Today his job would be comparable to having all involved computers run out of one office by people in the executive branch of Government, as if the OMB moved over there to handle things. Everything ran according to plans that came out of Carlucci's office of recovery. Nixon did not use a Marshall plan. He put somebody in charge of telling us what resources we ought to use and what our options were.

From that, he went on to other areas of success, so they must have picked the right guy. He held two Cabinet positions. He was a great success in business. That has nothing to do with what I am talking about, but he was apparently a very talented man. Now this President ought to pick a very talented leader, someone who is not in the Government, for a similar task. I mean no offense to the current establishment working in the Gulf Coast. They are there because we had an emergency—a disaster. But they are not there to handle what is going to be about a 10-year recovery program.

I think the occupant of the Chair knows this. This recovery plan will go on long beyond the next 2 or 3 years. We better have our recovery efforts, and oversight of those efforts, occur in an orderly manner or can you imagine how many hearings we are going to have? Can you imagine how many committees are going to be involved in saying they are solving this problem? Can you imagine the number of press releases that will be issued by subcommittees that are holding hearings about fixing this thing? Can you imagine the laws they are going to bring down here to the floor to pass saying, we are solving Katrina? All those things ought to come out of somebody who is on the ground analyzing the situation.

I urge the President to act. Give the position whatever name you like. I hate to use the word "czar". It doesn't

sound right to say "commander." It doesn't sound right to say "general." But they ought to put somebody in charge by executive order and give them the OMB type of office experts to help them analyze this situation and present to the Congress, through the President, the information we need for us to make the decisions about what policies we want.

Far be it from me to know much about managing things because I don't manage much except in my office, and I am not sure sometimes if a Senate office is even manageable. Whatever I have to manage, it probably has not been managed very well. Once I thought it was so important to manage that I hired somebody to see if they could write a manual on how you manage a Senate office. He was the greatest manager I had ever seen in New Mexico. He spent a year and a half working. He wrote a manual. When he was finished, he said: I guess I have tell you, you have to make this current about every week because things are so changeable here. So I don't know how to manage things.

But what I know is that what we have now cries out for a manager or we are going to have disorder following disaster. We are going to have money following money and then people asking: What wasn't done that should have been done? The sooner a manager is put in place, the better. I hope the President will act.

I thank the Senate for listening. I thank the Presiding Officer, because he is the only one who has to stay around here before we finish, and Senator ALEXANDER for being a gentleman.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am glad I had an opportunity to hear the Senator from New Mexico, who has a lot of wisdom on a lot of subjects. One of the most important things he reminded us of was to try to get in concrete terms the immensity of this disaster. We see it on television. We know there is more to be done than has been done. We know it is going to last a long time. I heard the same facts he did today, that the most displaced families that FEMA has ever had in one of its disasters was 22,000. This is 400,000 or 450,000 or 500,000. In other words, this is 20 times the scale of the worst disaster we have ever had in terms of displaced Americans. And so we are all scrambling. I think it is important for the Senator from New Mexico to have brought that up.

He also heard, as I heard, that one of the last great hurricanes we had was Harvey, I believe. FEMA is just finishing the work on Harvey now 10 years later because it takes a long time to help communities and people get back on their feet. So this is a massive challenge. All of us want to help.

There is one other thing I am prompted to say before I say a word or two about higher education and the bill

that was reported today by the HELP Committee. I have talked a lot in the past about the idea of a citizen legislature. The Senator from New Mexico has as well. Senator Howard Baker, who used to be the majority leader, used to talk about the citizen legislature and how valuable it was for our country if those of us who serve here spend a lot of time in our home states, that we spend time at the diner instead of dinner with a lobbyist, that we spend time at the church instead of up here at a ball game, that we keep our feet on the ground, and that is very important.

I believe that is probably more important today than it has ever been before. I will give an example. I was about to come back up here after our 5-week break. The morning paper reported that an airplane had arrived from Louisiana with 80 people on it who were in dire straits. Al Gore, the former Vice President of the United States from Tennessee, gave no interview to anybody, and had nothing to say. It has come out since then that he apparently arranged for the plane and may have paid for it. In other words, he brought them up from New Orleans.

I did what other people, I guess, did in our country. Before I came back to Washington, I sent a contribution over to the American Red Cross in Blount County, my home county. These 80 people were brought to the Christian church on Highway 321, where the Red Cross began to try to help them in various ways.

It never once occurred to me that I might be giving some advantage to a prominent Democrat by supporting something he was doing to help people. It never occurred to me. I doubt it ever occurred to Vice President Gore that he was bringing those 80 displaced persons to one of the most Republican counties in the United States. We have not had an elected Democrat in Congress from our area since the Civil War.

So in Maryville, TN, and I am sure in the Commonwealth of Virginia and everywhere in this country, the people who sent us here know what to do. They are opening their hearts, they are opening their doors, they are opening their churches, and they are opening their pocketbooks. The furthest thing from their minds is political advantage. I suspect that is exactly how they would like for us to conduct ourselves here.

It seems to me impossible in this body to avoid partisanship. Sometimes I think we have a playpen over here and a playpen over here, and a few Senators and House Members are always angling for partisan advantage. But this is no time for it. So when those impulses or outbursts occur, my suggestion would be that we go home.

In my case, it will be Maryville, TN. Most of us go home on the weekend or we go home for periods of time. We go down to a shelter, we go down to a church, and we see how the people who sent us here are conducting themselves

in dealing with this tragedy. And we remind ourselves of that, and we take a lesson from them. When we come back up here Monday through Friday, then hopefully we would conduct ourselves as well as they are conducting themselves. They would expect that from us, and we will do a lot better job of helping deal with this immense tragedy, 20 times as large as anything we have seen before.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to say a word about something important that happened this afternoon that is good news for the men and women in this country who go to college.

We have the best system of colleges and universities in the world. I can remember Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON from Texas and Senator FRIST arranged for a group of us to meet with the former President of Brazil, Mr. Cardoso, who had been at the Library of Congress for a while and was going back to Brazil. Senator HUTCHISON said: Mr. Cardoso, what will you take back to your country about your stay in the United States? He did not hesitate for a moment. He said: Senator HUTCHISON, the excellence of the American University. He said: There is nothing in the world like it. It is one of the greatest strengths of your country.

There are many reasons for this. I believe it is because we have created an environment in which we can bring out the best. We have 6,000 autonomous for-profit, nonprofit, State-supported, not-State-supported institutions, and we have generous Federal funding that follows students to the college or university of their choice. That market environment has permitted us to surpass the world. We do not just have some of the best colleges and universities in the world, we have most of them, and several of those are in the home State of the Presiding Officer, in Virginia, and some of those are in my State as well.

Today the committee upon which the Presiding Officer and I serve, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, reported out legislation that has to do with Federal support for colleges and universities for the next 4 or 5 years. The importance of that is this: 60 percent of the students in our country attending universities, community colleges, technical institutes, or for-profit institutions do so with the support of Federal grants or Federal loans. Sixty percent of the college students are affected by this legislation.

While the details of this legislation will come out over the next few weeks, it is important to say two things about it. One is the remarkably effective job by the Senator from Wyoming and the Senator from Massachusetts, Senator ENZI and Senator KENNEDY. This is a complex bill. There are lots of opinions

on it. There are more than 20 of us on the committee. At a time of great difficulty around here, they produced legislation that we unanimously supported and agreed upon and will bring to the Senate floor. It is almost certain it will go to conference with the House of Representatives and result in a final bill that we will then send to the President. It was a first-class job of leadership by Senator ENZI and Senator KENNEDY, and I salute them for it, and I am glad to have been part of their committee.

The second thing to say is the bill is good for students. For students, it increases the amount of Pell Grants from \$4,050 to \$4,500 over 5 years. The bill gives students who want to use their Pell Grant during the summer the opportunity to do so for the first time, making Pell Grants available year round.

We have a lot of working people who go to colleges and universities today. They may want to go four straight semesters. Right now they cannot do that if they are eligible for Federal support. Now they can under this bill when it passes. In addition, Pell Grants will be larger for students who are majoring in math, sciences, or critical foreign languages, thereby encouraging students to pursue these fields.

Someone told me in Tennessee last week that we only had one new physics teacher who graduated and came into our classes. They are going somewhere else. We need more homegrown scientists in the United States, and this is one step to help with that.

The bill is also good for universities as well as students because it begins to relieve the oppressive paperwork burden the Federal Government places on colleges and universities, freeing up scarce dollars to spend on improving quality teaching, research, and public service rather than paperwork.

For example, this legislation creates an expert panel to review, evaluate, and streamline the 7,000 Federal regulations that govern grants and loans to college students. I made a speech on the floor of the Senate a few months ago, and I stacked up in several boxes the 7,000 regulations that every single one of the 6,000 colleges and universities has to go through before they can admit students with a Federal grant or a Federal loan. That is ridiculous. The President of Stanford said they were spending 7 percent of their tuition on complying with Federal grants and Federal loans. Universities should be able to focus more on teaching and research, and less on complying with reporting requirements.

In addition, for the first time, the Federal Government will be required to develop a compliance calendar, making it easier for our 6,000 colleges and universities to comply with Federal rules and helping them with institutional planning and avoiding inadvertent errors in meeting these requirements. In other words, we are saying to the U.S. Department of Education, if you are

going to have 7,000 regulations—and we in Congress are guilty of causing that to happen, let me admit that—at least somebody in the Department of Education is going to have to put on a single calendar all of the deadlines when someone at George Mason University or Vanderbilt University or some small college in Iowa has to comply with each particular regulation. That will make it easier for the colleges, and it might discourage the number of new regulations.

Finally, universities doing a good job of keeping down the rate of loan defaults will be given more flexibility in how they use Federal dollars in grants and loans to students.

I am especially delighted the bill includes Teach for America legislation that I introduced with the Democratic leader, HARRY REID. Expanding Teach for America will not only build a corps of young college graduates who spend 2 years teaching in schools in lower income areas, but a corps of expanding influential alumni who support quality public education. I actually believe that corps of expanding influential alumni of these tremendously talented young people who graduate from the finest colleges and universities and go into the inner city and teach for 2 years will produce for us a corps of thousands of Americans who know what they are talking about when the issue of quality public education comes up. We have the best colleges and universities in the world, but they need to continue to be the best in order to maintain our standard of living.

The Federal Government is doing its part. Over the last 5 years, Federal spending on higher education has increased 71.8 percent. At the same time, State funding for higher education has increased on average by only 6.8 percent, partly because of the big increase in Medicaid costs to States, which have increased over the same time by 35.6 percent. This lower amount of State funding has meant that college tuition at public 4-year institutions has increased 38.2 nationally.

In Tennessee, the situation is equally pronounced. As I stated, Federal spending on higher education has increased 71.8 percent over the past 5 years. In Tennessee, spending on higher education has increased about 10 percent while Medicaid spending has increased by 71 percent. That is why during the same period the tuition at the University of Tennessee has increased by 33.4 percent.

I raise this because I hope in our discussion of the higher education bill that we will come to an understanding that one of the principal reasons for the big increases in tuition is the out-of-control State spending for Medicaid. Governors—and the Presiding Officer and I were both Governors—constantly have to fight to keep Medicaid spending under control so we will have enough money left for quality education. And if we do not have quality colleges and universities over the next