

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, 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.

### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:14 p.m., recessed until 2:18 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Ohio, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

### MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCIENCE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, AND COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006—Continued

AMENDMENTS NOS. 1650, AS MODIFIED, 1653, AND 1704

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the managers' amendments that I now send to the desk be considered and agreed to, en bloc. These noncontroversial amendments have been cleared on both sides of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments were agreed to, en bloc, as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1650, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To make funds available to implement the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004)

On page 170, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 304. Of the amounts made available under the heading "NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION" and the subheading "OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES", sufficient funds may be provided to implement the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004 (title I of Public Law 108-456; 16 U.S.C. 1451 note).

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1653

(Purpose: To increase funding for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners)

On page 133, line 11, strike "\$2,287,000" and insert "\$5,287,000".

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1704

(Purpose: To extend the term of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission)

On page 142, after line 3, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 7(d)(3)(A) of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. 15606) is amended by striking "2 years" and inserting "3 years".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1687, AS MODIFIED

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the pending amendments be set aside. I call up amendment No. 1687, and I send a modification to the desk for immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1687), as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide funding for interoperable communications equipment grants)

On page 190, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

Sec. 522. (a) There are appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, \$5,000,000,000 for interoperable communications equipment grants under State and local programs administered by the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness of the Department of Homeland Security.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators LEVIN, SCHUMER, OBAMA, CLINTON, and BOXER be added as cosponsors of this amendment.

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, all of America is hurting with the Katrina victims and their families. We are finding ways to help, to reach out, to make a difference in these critical weeks following the hurricane and the horrible disaster. Americans are donating record amounts of money, time, and supplies to help those displaced by the hurricane. The most important thing to do now is to save life, to provide shelter, food, and medical care for the people affected by this tragedy.

As is happening in many States, last week two jetliners arrived in Michigan with the first group of 289 hurricane evacuees. Troops and volunteers at our Battle Creek Air National Guard base are providing clean shelter, food, and clothing to all of these Americans. Last Friday, 46 more Americans were welcomed into Michigan, and we expect many more in the coming weeks.

We also have several Michigan State police teams, and more than 500 members of the Michigan National Guard in Louisiana and Mississippi assisting with relief efforts.

There are stories about people all across our great Nation who are answering the call to help the men and women who have been displaced and hurt by the hurricane. In Michigan, families and businesses are working together to help the victims. Michigan-based Whirlpool, for example, is donating \$1 million in cash and products for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

On Friday, the State of Michigan held a statewide on-air fundraiser where Michiganders generously donated time and dollars for Red Cross hurricane relief efforts.

There are so many individual stories of heroism and generosity rising from

the depth of this catastrophe, both in the States affected by the hurricane and in communities such as mine all across America. These are important stories right now—saving lives, finding shelter, food, and medical care, and raising money to help hurricane victims. But there is another story to tell here as well. It is about the Federal Government and our responsibility to all Americans to be prepared not only for this kind of disaster but for a coordinated response to help save lives and prevent chaos.

We all watched in horror the images of families trapped in New Orleans after the hurricane; mothers with babies and young children stranded on highway overpasses, making their desperate pleas for help; families clinging to the roof of their flooded home, waving the shirts off their backs for help; senior citizens trapped in flooded nursing homes without food, water, and medical care. An estimated 55,000 people were stranded in the New Orleans Superdome and convention center, left for days—left for days—without food, water, and working bathrooms, waiting to be rescued. Thousands of people sat outside the Superdome in the heat and the filth for days waiting for convoys of buses which were slow to arrive because of FEMA's lack of planning and poor communication.

How could this happen in the United States of America, the greatest country on Earth? How could this happen? How could we allow stranded people to die without getting them water and food and medical care?

In this time immediately following this disaster, we have an obligation to correct the mistakes on crisis response. We need to address how the Federal Government could have better handled the response to Hurricane Katrina and what should have been done to prevent the disorder and death that followed this tragedy. It is absolutely critical that local communities have the tools they need to communicate, coordinate, and respond effectively when disaster hits. They did not have that in New Orleans and the other places that were hit, where the police departments in three nearby parishes were on different radio systems. They did not have enough satellite phones. They had ground and cell phone lines that were taken out with this storm. The communications systems they did have, like most in local communities across the Nation, were not interoperable. They were not connected. They didn't work together. Police officers called Senator LANDRIEU's office, and I am sure Senator VITTER's office as well, because they could not reach commanders on the ground in New Orleans.

In the absence of communication with other emergency responders due to the lack of interoperability, power, or dying batteries, responders shared satellite phones that were in short supply.

According to Aaron Broussard, president of the Jefferson Parish, FEMA