

going to be held next week. And as the Senator has been speaking—and I have been mesmerized by what he said—completely off the top of my head I remember, for example, 3 years ago the EPA decided that it was going to do a study in my State, in Jacksonville, FL.

Now, get this. You will not believe this. It was going to expose toddlers to pesticides to see what the effects were. And, of course, where do you think those toddlers were going to be? They were going to be in a minority neighborhood. It was going to be in a low-income neighborhood. And the EPA had concocted this scheme. It was sending out these flyers.

In order to get a household to participate, it said: We want you to participate in this study. I cannot remember the amount of money they would pay, but they were going to give them a T-shirt; they were going to give them a certificate that they completed this process over several months; and they were given a camcorder that then, at the end of the study, if they successfully completed it, they would keep. And the study was, they were going to put pesticides all over this house and see what the effects were on these toddlers. This was the purpose of the study.

You could not believe it. I happened to discover it about the same time that the chairman of the environment committee—she was not the chair then. Senator BOXER was the ranking member. And the two of us collaborated. We had a press conference. We blew this thing sky high. As a matter of fact, now that it is coming back to me, Senator BOXER held up the nomination of the newly appointed EPA Administrator until he finally relented and said he was not going to have this study before she would allow the confirmation. Yet he “bumfuddled” around and tried to dodge and weave and not even answer the question. I mean, it defies description.

The Senator from Rhode Island has given a number of examples, and that one leapt to my mind. I want to give the Senator from Rhode Island another example.

In the little agency that I cherish so much, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, can you believe that one of the most distinguished and noted scientists in that institution in NASA, Dr. Hansen, little underlings in the PR department of NASA—and when I say little underlings, I don't remember what their job description was, but I think they were in their twenties. They had the audacity to go in and change the wording on Dr. Hansen's conclusions with regard to a climate change study.

Finally, this came out. Ultimately, his words were restored.

I will give you another example in that little agency. They have an inspector general in NASA who is just running amok. There was a theft of a \$2 billion rocket design in the NASA computers, and he refused to inves-

tigate. Then when the rest of us tried to get him dismissed, the buddy-buddy club wouldn't allow him to be fired.

I will give you another example. This will just blow your mind. For years, the Florida Everglades have been on the endangered list in a list that is kept by the United Nations, a list of the most environmentally endangered sites in the world. A third-ranking Department of State employee took it upon himself, in a conference in New Zealand, to speak and to have the Florida Everglades stricken from the list of the most endangered environmental sites, something we work on every day in Everglades restoration, in combination, the Federal Government with the State of Florida, in trying to restore the Everglades to something of what Mother Nature intended.

These are things that have popped into my mind of what we have seen over and over again, of the ideological rigidity, the excessive partisanship, which, when you combine the two, is lethal to common sense and to protection of the public. Yet that is what we have seen. Then when some of us, in our role of oversight, try to start changing it and get accountability and responsibility in the executive branch, they won't do anything about it. The NASA IG is still there. That third-tier Department of State employee was there until he finally retired. The EPA Administrator is still there. So here we are.

I thank the Senator for yielding. I thank him again for his eloquence today and for his service to our country in representing his State.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank my good friend from Florida.

I will close with the following point, which my friend Senator NELSON, the distinguished Senator from Florida, calls to mind, because of his extraordinarily distinguished service to our country. He was willing to put himself at great risk in the extraordinarily challenging pursuit of becoming an astronaut for the United States of America. I mean, talk about the best and brightest. As we know from many tragedies, it is not only an extraordinarily challenging pursuit, it is one where you do put your life very much at risk on behalf of the progress of this country. He, in that very important way, and I, in a much slower way, share an important belief, which is that the Government of the United States of America, our American system of government which has been passed down to us after a revolutionary war, a civil war, two great world wars, the Great Depression, essentially intact and, indeed, improving through the decades and generations, is one of God's great gifts to humankind. It is now in our hands, particularly as we represent our States in this body. It is to be treasured. It is to be viewed with respect. It is, indeed, to be viewed with reverence.

The thing that, to me, is worst of all from his politics, from his corruption, from his debasement of public service,

is the lack of respect, the lack of reverence for what we have been given, for what we hold in trust for ourselves and future generations. It has never been as low as it is now. But the light still burns, and we will continue to call attention to the miscreancy that we find. Soon, in January, it will be over.

I thank my friend from Florida and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

#### FOREIGN CONTRACT PERSONNEL

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I came to the floor to discuss another matter. I thank the Senator from Rhode Island. As a matter of fact, before the Senator from Rhode Island departs the Chamber, he might want to hear what I came to talk about. It is actually a little success story, but it is borne on another failure we have seen. This, I am sad to say, is a failure for American women who are contractor personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, when sexually assaulted, when raped. They have not been able to have their assailants prosecuted, as contractor personnel.

We dramatically brought this to light in a hearing about 3 weeks ago. Two very courageous Americans stepped forward, one for the first time publicly. In her particular case, she had been drugged and then gang-raped by not only fellow American contractor personnel, KBR, a subsidiary of Halliburton, but in that case also participated in by members of the military. When she tried to seek help, it was all swept under the rug, and in her particular case, she did not even get any medical attention until 3 weeks later.

Well, the little success story we have, Mr. President, is that in the passage of the Defense Authorization Act, which occurred on Wednesday in the Armed Services Committee, there is inserted a new requirement under law. That requirement is that contractors to the Department of Defense—and, mind you, we have tens of thousands of those contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan—No. 1, will be required to report the offenses of sexual assault to the appropriate investigative authorities; No. 2, they will have the responsibility of providing victim and witness protection and assistance to contractor employees.

If we can maintain that position in the Defense authorization bill as it works its way here to the floor of the Senate and then to work out the final product with the House—and I think we will be able to protect this because who is going to vote against it—that is one little happy victory that will give some additional protection to American women who are serving in harm's way, who are not members of the military but, in fact, are Americans serving overseas as contractors to the military.

Over and over, the testimony was they are assaulted, they cannot find

someone who will investigate; if they have any evidence—in other words, they have been able to get to a doctor and have the evidence from a rape kit—indeed, that evidence is lost, the counseling is not there, and they are left on their own.

The United States military actually has done a pretty good job of this for military personnel, not so with contractor personnel. There are laws on the books that protect contractor personnel. But out of the 26 known cases we know of, of raping American women—contractor personnel—not one of them has been prosecuted.

So the amending of the Defense Authorization Act with this new requirement will require—you would think common sense would tell you the contractors would do this. But, no. In 26 alleged cases, there has not been one prosecution, and certainly no conviction. So it is my hope this will mandate to the contractors they have to report the offenses and they have to provide the victims and witnesses protection and assistance.

In this one case, which was so dramatic, Mrs. Dawn Leamon had come forth for the first time when she testified to our subcommittee. The intimidation of her not doing anything about this gang rape was so severe that when she finally left the forward operating base to go to another forward operating base, where she could first seek assistance, she was given a thumb drive of photographs. Normally, these would just be photographs of the fellow contractors and so forth.

But let me tell you what one of those photographs was. And one day I am going to bring that photograph over here in its blown-up form, which we showed in the committee, so that the Senate can see how dramatic this is. There are three of her male contractor personnel. As they are all three facing the camera, one of them is like this, another one is like this, and the third one is like this: Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil—a message that there is no sense in her trying to do anything, that they do not know anything.

This is the kind of lack of protection that is allowed to have been going on that has to stop. I thank Senator LEVIN, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Senator WARNER, who is the acting ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, for letting this Senator bring that to the attention of our committee when we marked up and amended the Defense authorization bill.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would ordinarily ask consent to proceed to a

bill prior to filing a cloture motion on the motion to proceed. But I will not do so today because there is no one on the other side to object.

#### FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 460, S. 2284, the National Flood Insurance Act Amendments.

Before sending a cloture motion to the desk, I told the minority leader yesterday I was filing this and that this would be the thing we would go to as soon as we finish FAA. I hope that it is not necessary to have a vote for cloture. I hope they will allow us to move to FAA on Tuesday. If they do, we will proceed quickly to move to this flood insurance act.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I sent a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 460, S. 2284, the National Flood Insurance Act Amendments.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Byron L. Dorgan, Edward M. Kennedy, Christopher J. Dodd, Daniel K. Akaka, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Sherrod Brown, Amy Klobuchar, Ken Salazar, Sheldon Whitehouse, Max Baucus, Daniel K. Inouye.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding an adjournment of the Senate, that Monday, May 5, count as the intervening day under rule XXII; further, that this cloture vote not occur prior to the previously ordered cloture vote on the Rockefeller substitute amendment No. 4627; provided further, that the mandatory quorum be waived, and I now withdraw the motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 308. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2972. A bill to reauthorize and modernize the Federal Aviation Administration.

S. 2973. A bill to promote the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2970. A bill to enhance the ability of drinking water utilities in the United States to develop and implement climate change adaptation programs and policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ)):

S. 2971. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a suspension of the highway fuel tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 2972. A bill to reauthorize and modernize the Federal Aviation Administration; read the first time.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BOND, Mr. INHOPE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 2973. A bill to promote the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 2974. A bill to provide for the construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. WICKER)):

S. 2975. A bill to provide additional funds for affordable housing for low-income seniors, disabled persons, and others who lost their homes as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 549. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to childhood stroke and designating May 3, 2008, as "National Childhood Stroke Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. Res. 550. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding provocative and dangerous statements made by the Government of the Russian Federation that undermine the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1070

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social