

have to do something about increasing the supply of natural gas as well as home heating oils through the refining capacity as well as doing something to affect the supply.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

HONORING A. ERNEST FITZGERALD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, a patriotic civil servant is going home. Mr. A. Ernest Fitzgerald has finally called it quits. His 42-year career, including Navy service in World War II, came to a close on Friday, March 3. He has walked out of the Pentagon for the last time. He has retired.

Although Mr. Fitzgerald's first name is Arthur, most of us know him fondly under the name of Ernie. Ernie is probably the most famous whistleblower of all time, and I think of him as the father of all whistleblowers, the chief whistleblower. He set an example for all of the whistleblowers who have followed in his footsteps.

Ernie is a man of great courage and integrity.

I dreamed for a long time that someday some duly certified whistleblower would be honored by a President, even this President, at a Rose Garden ceremony. Ernie is a perfect candidate for such a Rose Garden ceremony, but I don't think that he is going to get that honor. It may never happen. At least it may not happen in my lifetime. But of course I believe it should happen because that would be the right thing to do, to send a signal from the highest levels of Government all the way to the bowels of the bureaucracy that patriotic people who are willing to blow the whistle on something that is wrong in Government would be honored for being that patriotic person.

Courageous souls such as Ernie Fitzgerald make our Nation and our Government stronger and better. They help to strengthen and keep the public trust. They help to make the Government transparent and accountable, and that is exactly what the citizens of this country want and what the citizens of this country ought to expect.

That is why we must always help whistleblowers such as Ernie Fitzgerald. Being a whistleblower is a tough business. They need our constant

support and protection because within the bureaucracy they are treated like a skunk at a picnic. Those, such as Ernie, who have stepped forward and put their careers and reputations on the line in the defense of truth in Government deserve the highest honor.

Ernie did not make it to the Rose Garden, but he got pretty close. He got the next best thing. He left the Pentagon with his dignity and honor intact.

In a moment I want to explain how that happened. But first I wish to speak briefly about what Ernie did because he was always a source of inspiration to this Senator. Early in my Senate career, I heard about Ernie Fitzgerald. His work convinced me that I needed to get involved in oversight, generally, and at that time specifically oversight of the Defense Department, oversight of the Pentagon. Ernie's work, along with that of a person by the name of Chuck Spinney, was a huge contribution. They were the inspiration behind my historic amendment to freeze the Defense budget that was approved by the Senate in May of 1985. Ernie was the inspiration behind my efforts to put the brakes on the spare parts overpricing.

Ernie was also the inspiration behind my efforts to expose and clean up the Department of Defense books of account and broken accounting practices. Ernie was the inspiration behind so many whistleblower protection laws that are now on the books.

Ernie's unwavering devotion to saving the taxpayers' money has always been an inspiration to this Senator. Ernie never lost sight of this lofty and honorable goal, not for one second. And he would pursue it to the end of the Earth, if that is where it took him. To Ernie, saving the taxpayers' money was never just a goal. It was much more than that. It was more like a calling to him. It was a matter of faith to him, keeping faith with the taxpayers, stopping waste of taxpayers' money was a religion to Ernie Fitzgerald.

Ernie had fellowship with the taxpayers.

He did everything in his power each day to ensure that not a penny was wasted and every cent was properly accounted for.

Ernie followed his calling in a place called the Pentagon—not exactly what I would call a taxpayer-friendly environment. That is the place that the world's most powerful generals and admirals call home. And the generals and admirals never looked kindly on the likes of a whistleblower named Ernie Fitzgerald. But that didn't phase Ernie one bit.

The Pentagon brass is praising him today as he leaves the Pentagon for good, but they hammered him relentlessly for what he was and for what he did. The Pentagon is the place where Ernie dug in his heels, took his stand, and kept the faith.

The most fateful day in the life of Ernie Fitzgerald was November 13, 1968.

That was the day Ernie appeared before Senator Proxmire's Joint Economic Committee to testify on the C-5 transport aircraft program. He was an official witness of the U.S. Air Force. And Ernie did the unthinkable—he "committed truth." He told the Congress about a \$12 billion C-5 cost overrun. Back then, \$2 billion was real money.

Ernie's truthful testimony about the C-5 cost overrun created a firestorm of controversy, and that is what caused President Nixon to issue his famous order caught on those famous tapes. The quote was: "Get rid of that SOB." For speaking the truth, Ernie paid the ultimate price: He got fired, he got blackballed, and he was put on the official hit list. His career was over. And that was November 13, 1968. For speaking the truth—that is what it was all about, just speak the truth—about a \$2 billion cost overrun on an airplane that somehow people wanted to cover up. As most of us know, though, Ernie got his job back, but it took him 12 years to get his job back. That is how much whistleblowers are appreciated in the bureaucracy at the Pentagon, or anyplace else. And when he did get it back, it was not given back willingly; it had to be taken back. It took a court order signed by U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant on June 15, 1982. That is 14 years after he appeared to talk about the C-5 \$2 billion cost overrun.

Judge Bryant's order made Ernie the Management Systems Deputy of the Air Force. It was a high-sounding title with far-reaching responsibilities. On paper, it looked like a perfect fit. Unfortunately, Ernie was never given the authority to perform the job specified in the court order. The "over-dogs," as Ernie Fitzgerald called them, effectively isolated him then and the 25 years since. As far as I know, the only time Ernie was able to do his job was when he was officially detailed to my staff for short periods of time.

The last such project was 1997-1998 when Ernie worked with my staff on what we called the Joint Review of Internal Controls at the Defense Department. He and my staff examined several hundred invoices from an office in the Pentagon where fraud had occurred. They followed those invoices step by step through the entire cycle of transactions from purchase order to payment by the Treasury. They found overpayments, underpayments, erroneous payments, and even potentially fraudulent payments. No one payment had been done correctly.

One of the biggest problems uncovered had to do with "remit" addresses. Remit addresses are so important because that is where the money goes. The staff found people who were handling invoices and paying bills also had authority to put addresses on checks going out the door. That was a major violation of the separation-of-duties principle. It left the door wide open to fraud.

Ernie helped us close that door.

Despite constant bureaucratic roadblocks, Ernie went to his cubbyhole-

size office day in and day out for all those 25 years. Each day, he did what he could to keep the faith and honor his commitment to those taxpayers.

Then came another fateful day: September 12, last year. That was the day Judge Bryant, after 25 years, pulled the plug on Ernie's court order, precipitating another crisis in Ernie's life and bringing us to this place in time.

I feel like we have arrived at a very important point in time. We didn't make it to the Rose Garden this time, but we came pretty close. So we are making progress. Maybe next time.

Earlier, I promised to explain how we came close to the Rose Garden. On Monday, February 27, this year, the inspector general at the Defense Department presented our most famous whistleblower, Ernie Fitzgerald, with the Distinguished Service Medal. I do not know if anything like this has ever happened before. As I said a moment ago, Ernie is retiring with honor and dignity. One person has made all this happen: Mr. Tom Gimble, acting inspector general at the Department of Defense. After Judge Bryant struck down Ernie's court order after those 25 years, it was readily apparent that Ernie was in another tight spot. However, Ernie was willing to retire under the right conditions.

Tom Gimble, as acting inspector general, seized the initiative. He took charge of the negotiations between Ernie and the Air Force. He kept them moving in the right direction. He did everything he could to ensure that Ernie was treated fairly and given the full protection of the law. Under his able leadership, those negotiations were brought to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Gimble effectively brought Ernie in under the protective umbrella provided by the Office of Inspector General. He gave Ernie a safe haven in the IG's building—a place to work. He had Ernie's entire collection of official records moved to that secure facility. With the help of a team of document specialists provided by Mr. Gimble, Ernie was able to get the job done.

All of his records now have been shipped to the National Archives—400-plus boxes in all. In time, Ernie's papers will be open to the American people. They will be able to judge Ernie's work for themselves.

From the beginning of this process to the very end, all sorts of little kinks kept popping up all along the way. But Mr. Gimble was always there ready to step in and help iron them out. Mr. Gimble is the first inspector general to personally reach out to Ernie and help him in such meaningful ways.

Mr. Gimble, I stand before all my colleagues and say thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did to help Ernie in these closing days of his career—after 42 years working for the Federal Government. I thank you for doing what inspector generals should do. You did that.

And Ernie Fitzgerald, I thank you, too, for what you did and for your cour-

age and dedication to make our Government stronger and better and to help restore the public trust. I salute you as a person who more Americans ought to follow, that one person determined to make a difference can, in fact, make a difference.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006—Continued

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of S. 2349, the lobbying reform legislation; provided further that the substitute amendment be agreed to, and that it be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment.

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

The amendment (No. 2907) was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS OF JACK HANNA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, from the tender days of his youth growing up in Knoxville, Jack Hanna knew he was destined to work with animals. His commitment seemingly knew no limits as he would eagerly climb aboard public buses to nurture his budding interest by working at a local animal clinic for a meager \$10 a week.

Yet back then, even he probably couldn't sense that his unique passion would one day blossom and inspire him to a career as an acclaimed author, television host and animal conservationist who would touch the lives of millions.

After stops at Muskingum College and then Florida, it wouldn't be long before the man now affectionately nicknamed "Jungle Jack" was serving as executive director of the Columbus Zoo in Ohio. When he first arrived, the zoo was in poor shape. Attendance sagged, and the animal habitats were outmoded.

Yet over time, molded by his steady hand, the zoo was gradually revitalized and restored. And with Hanna at the helm, the Columbus Zoo grew into the world-class facility it is today.

He maintains a relentless travel schedule—wearing a beaten path to exotic locales all over the globe. But no matter whether he is visiting with the bears and whales in the frigid arctic or the cheetahs in the lonesome wild of Africa, he remains fueled by a genuine love of animals and a deep passion for sharing the majesty of nature with children and adults in communities throughout the world.

No matter whether an animal prowls, stomps, slithers or crawls, Jack Hanna craves the opportunity to share its unique importance with any and all who will listen. He is a fervent advocate for conservation, and his efforts have broadened the horizons of untold millions of readers, listeners and viewers.

While Jack Hanna is no stranger to big name stages—he is a regular on mainstream media shows like "Good Morning America" and "The Late Show with David Letterman"—it is not the fame or excitement that has drawn him onto TV and into the homes of millions of Americans. Rather, it is the opportunity to educate people across the Nation about the magic and wonder of the animal kingdom.

He rejects the notion of his celebrity, insisting he serves only as an "ambassador for animals in the wild."

Not surprisingly, Hanna's altruism extends far beyond animal interests. He is passionate about addressing the needs of the human condition as well. He has shown a true commitment to helping communities in some of the most impoverished and war-torn regions of the world. During a recent taping in Rwanda, he reminded fans that "if you don't help the people first, you won't be able to help the animals, either."

Just last December he made a point of halting his manic travel schedule to share his love of animals with patients at the Walter Reed Medical Center right here in suburban Washington, DC. His eager and youthful style was a tremendous hit among the troops. The visit shared the healing presence of animals and buoyed some of our Nation's finest men and women's spirits.

The Knoxville News Sentinel aptly describes Jack as "a whirlwind of activity, always on the go." But looking beyond his busy exterior, it is clear to all that Jack Hanna is a man of deep humility and genuine compassion.

His work has heightened appreciation for untold numbers of animal species from all regions of the world. And his efforts have enriched the lives of humans and animals alike. He is a special individual and an embodiment of the Tennessee volunteer spirit.

NOMINATION OF JUDGE JACK ZOUHARY

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in strong support of the nomination of Judge Jack Zouhary, whom the President has nominated to be U.S. District Court Judge for the