

like this doesn't happen someplace else around the world. And what was Secretary Clinton's reaction to that report? She took responsibility immediately and began to implement the recommendations from the Accountability Review Board.

In summary, Republicans spent at least \$5 million to attack Secretary Clinton. On this one committee, this one select committee, they have spent \$4.7 or \$4.8 million. Republicans have done little to investigate the Benghazi attacks. And what little work House Republicans actually did only reconfirmed the basic findings of all three of these previous investigations.

House Republicans sadly have used the tragic deaths of four innocent Americans and turned it into an appalling political farce. The very notion that an official House committee was used as a political tool is inexcusable. I would suggest that the chairman of that committee should be ashamed of himself. It is even more disgraceful when nearly 5 million taxpayer dollars were spent on this political hit job.

Senate Democrats will continue to fight to get this sham of a committee disbanded. Weeks ago, we sent a letter to Speaker BOEHNER urging him to bring this disgraceful committee to an end, but, no, they are plodding forward. Today, Senate Democrats sent a letter to the Republican National Committee requesting that it reimburse the American people for the Benghazi Committee's expenses. Why did we do that? It is only fair since the so-called committee is clearly a Republican political organization.

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate turns its attention to the cybersecurity bill. It is way overdue. The bill, which is OK, is better than nothing—let's put it that way.

The ranking member of the Intelligence Committee, Senator FEINSTEIN, and the chairman of that committee, Senator BURR, have worked hard on this legislation, which addresses a serious national security issue. In fact, it is so serious that we should have addressed this topic long ago. We tried to. As Senate Democrats, we tried so very hard. We had a comprehensive cybersecurity bill on the floor 3 years ago which was much deeper and better than this one—3 years ago—but our Republican colleagues blocked us from even debating the bill. We couldn't even debate the bill. Why? They, the Republicans, were told the chamber of commerce didn't like it. At about the same time, the chamber of commerce's whole operation was hacked by the Chinese. The people who worked down there expected things to come out in English, but they came out in Chinese. But they didn't like the bill anyway, so they told the Republicans to oppose it, and they marched over here and opposed it.

Democrats, however, realize cybersecurity is a serious issue. We know how important cybersecurity is for the national security of our country and the financial security of our economy.

Even though this bill is not our perfect bill, we are going to cooperate with our Republican colleagues. Several months ago we reached an agreement with Republicans to begin debating this legislation, and now we can process it in an efficient and bipartisan manner.

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

I withdraw that. The reason we were going to have a quorum call—I know other people want to have a chance to speak, but Senator MCCONNELL is on his way.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

DRUG ABUSE EPIDEMIC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, before discussing the bill currently before the Senate, I would like to note that President Obama will be heading to West Virginia today with Drug Czar Botticelli to announce additional steps the Federal Government will take to address America's prescription drug abuse and heroin epidemic.

This epidemic has been particularly devastating to my constituents. Today, drug overdoses—principally driven by painkillers—claim more Kentucky lives than car accidents. Today, increased heroin overdose rates account for nearly one-third of all drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth. Today, thousands of innocent babies are born dependent on opioids.

I recently hosted Director Botticelli in Kentucky to discuss critical issues such as these. I am encouraged to see him and the President engaged and proposing certain steps that my home State of Kentucky has already embraced.

Drug abuse certainly isn't a partisan issue. Many Members of the Senate are actively engaged on the matter. I know the President will be joined today by West Virginia's Republican Senator and Democratic Senator. Finding solu-

tions to this epidemic will require all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, to work together at the Federal, State, and local levels. Today's announcement is encouraging because it is always positive to see Republicans and Democrats working together to address this epidemic.

Here is another bipartisan opportunity for us to work together on this issue: Let's pass S. 799, the Protecting Our Infants Act. I hope the Senate will pass that important bipartisan legislation very soon.

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier this year, millions of people were affected when the Obama administration was hit by a devastating cyber attack. It is an attack that has been described as "one of the worst breaches in U.S. history," but it is hardly the last one we will face.

The challenges posed by cyber attacks are real, and they are broad. They threaten governments, businesses, and individuals. Americans see these threats in the public sector. For instance, as reports have indicated, the sensitive personal information of millions who purchase insurance through ObamaCare is especially vulnerable. Americans see these threats in the private sector as well. For instance, despite the cyber deal recently agreed upon between China and the administration, press reports indicate that Chinese hacking attempts on American companies and businesses appear to be continuing unabated. Americans also know that a cyber attack is essentially a personal attack on their own privacy. It is violating to think of strangers digging through our medical records and emails. It is worrying to think of criminals accessing credit card numbers and Social Security information.

That is why the Senate will again consider bipartisan legislation to help Americans' most private and personal information. It would do so by defeating cyber attacks through the sharing of information. It contains modern tools that cybersecurity experts tell us could help prevent future attacks against both public and private sectors. It contains important measures to protect individual privacy and civil liberties. It has been carefully scrutinized by Senators of both parties. In short, this legislation is strong, transparent, and bipartisan. Republicans and Democrats joined together to pass this legislation through committee, the administration supports it, and the House has already passed similar legislation. With a little cooperation, we can pass it here shortly as well.

The chair of the Intelligence Committee, Senator BURR, is working to set votes on pending amendments and has accommodated other Senators in the form of a substitute amendment. I wish to thank him for his hard work on this legislation. I wish to also thank