

equipment to a country that has received the waiver to secondary sanctions under section 231. Large arms sales are likely to be subject to the FMS review process, but significant direct commercial sales must also be notified to the Foreign Relations Committee 30 days in advance of the export license being issued. The result is that Congress has the ability to conduct oversight of these transactions.

Furthermore, under the Arms Export Control Act, Congress has procedures for pursuing a resolution of disapproval prohibiting or modifying the proposed arms sales. Congress's oversight of any major U.S. arms sales that might flow from a waiver of secondary sanctions under section 231 provides us an additional ability to revise and supervise the administration's implementation of this waiver authority.

There are specific cases that one could talk about in terms of countries that we are actually trying to engage, such as India, Indonesia, and other countries, but I think what we have tried to do is to structure a very discrete and, in the terms the Secretary of Defense has used, very stringent conditions to the exercise of the sanctions.

Let me conclude by again thanking Senator INHOFE, Chairman THORNBERRY, Ranking Member SMITH, and all of the conferees for their bipartisanism throughout the process. This process has been collegial, and this is an example of a strong piece of legislation that addresses concerns of Members on both sides of the aisle.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Armed Services Committee for all of their hard work on drafting a thoughtful and comprehensive bill. Their diligent work is a tribute to us all.

I would be remiss if I didn't single out these extraordinary individuals. I thank Senator MCCAIN's staff director, Chris Brose, who did a superb job; Senator INHOFE's staff director, Luke Holland, Tony McLain; on my staff, Jody Bennett, Jon Clark, Gary Leeling, Creighton Greene, Jonathan Epstein, Ozge Guzelsu, Jon Green, Kirk McConnell, John Quirk, Arun Seraphin, Carolyn Chuhta, Maggie McNamara, Mike Noblet, Jorie Feldman, Bill Monahan, and my staff director, Elizabeth King. I also want to thank Jen Stewart and Paul Arcangeli. They are the staff directors for Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH, respectfully. They did a superb job.

With their work and with the inspiration of Senator MCCAIN, we were able to pass an extraordinary and I think very effective piece of legislation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold?

Mr. REED. I will be happy to.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES— H.R. 2

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair appoints the following as conferees on the part of the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses with respect to H.R. 2.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. HEITKAMP conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### FARM BILL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to talk for a few minutes about our farm bill. As you know, our farm bill is the primary agricultural and food policy tool of the United States. We pass it every 5 years. We just passed it this year. The bill is going to conference. As you know, the Senate passed its own farm bill and the House passed its farm bill, so we will go to conference and try to work it out. The bill was a 5-year bill, but it spends \$860 billion in taxpayer money. Let me say that figure again—\$860 billion in taxpayer money.

We throw a billion around these days in Washington as if it were a nickel. A billion is a lot. If I started counting to a billion right now and counted one numeral a second, I would finish in 2050. I probably wouldn't finish; I would probably die first. That is how much a billion is. This bill is about \$860 billion. Seventy-five percent of it deals with our food stamp program.

In the House version of the farm bill, there is a work requirement for food stamps, and this is what it says: The American taxpayer will happily give you his or her hard-earned money to help you get back on your feet. We don't want you to be hungry. But if you are between the ages of 18 and 59, the House bill says, and you are not disabled and you don't have a child under 6, then in return for those food stamps, we are going to require you to get a job. You don't have to work a full week; you just have to work 20 hours a week. And if you don't want to work, you can go to job training for 20 hours a week.

That is what the House bill says. The Senate bill is silent on that—crickets. It doesn't even address it.

I am speaking today to try to encourage our friends in the House to stand firm and insist that their work requirement for food stamps remain in the

bill. I would like to spend a few minutes to explain why.

I get a little tired of politicians and others saying: Oh, the American people—they are stingy. They don't help their neighbor.

That is not true. The American people are the most generous people in the world. They are the most generous people in the history of the world. Think about it. First, we spend about \$1 trillion a year—\$1 trillion a year—in State and local programs that are funded by people's money. The money to fund those programs didn't fall from Heaven. We thank Heaven for it, but it came out of people's pockets, and we spend \$1 trillion a year—State and local tax money—helping our neighbors who are less fortunate than we are.

In our country—and I am very proud of this—if you are homeless, we will house you; if you are too poor to be sick, we will pay for your doctor; and if you are hungry, we will feed you. That separates this country from just about every other country in the world, and it is one of the reasons that so many people across the world want to come to America—because our people are so generous. I mean, when is the last time you heard of somebody trying to sneak into Russia? When is the last time you heard of somebody trying to sneak into North Korea? When is the last time you heard of somebody trying to sneak into China? I mean, we should be complimented, and it is because of our giving spirit. But it doesn't do any good, in my judgment, to be generous with people who need our help without also helping them get out of the circumstances for which we need to be generous.

Let me put it another way. By suggesting we need a work requirement for food stamps, I am not trying to take away food stamps from people in need. I do not want to take away food stamps from people in need, but I do want fewer people to need food stamps. The best way we can do that for those who are able to work is to help them get a job.

The Brookings Institution, as the Presiding Officer knows, is hardly a bastion of liberalism. They recently did a study. The Brookings Institute said: If you do these four things, you have only a 2-percent chance of living in poverty in America. This is Brookings, now.

The Brookings Institution says that if you do these four things you have only a 2-percent chance of living in poverty: No. 1, get a job—any job—even if it is minimum wage; No. 2, don't get married until you are 21; No. 3, don't have a child before you get married.

I said four, but I will say that, even if you do these three things—get any job, don't get married before you are 21, and don't have a child before you get married—you only have a 2-percent chance in this country of living in poverty. Obviously, a job is a critical part of that.

This is what the House bill does. I hope we in the Senate will join with