

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, is the Senator from Vermont correct in understanding when all time is yielded back it is, indeed, passed?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield back time on this side.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I yield whatever remaining time I may have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In light of yielding back the remaining time, under the previous order the conference report is agreed to and the motion to reconsider that vote is laid upon the table.

The conference report was agreed to.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business until 2 p.m., with each Senator permitted to speak up to 10 minutes.

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I see my friend from New Mexico on the floor. I would like to make a brief statement and then yield the floor to him, if he doesn't mind.

#### REMARKS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SARA LISTER AND THE MARINE CORPS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to express my grave disappointment in the statement that Sara Lister, the Army's Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, made in reference to the U.S. Marine Corps. We just finished Veterans Day, and November 10 is traditionally the Marine Corps' birthday. So I guess her sense of timing is unbelievable. But, basically, this is what the Assistant Secretary said: "The Marines are extremists" and "wherever you have extremists, you've got some risks of total disconnection with society."

For whatever I have done with my life personally, I attribute some of what I learned in the U.S. Marine Corps. I think the statement that she made is grossly unjust, and is an affront to every person who has ever worn the uniform of the U.S. Marine Corps, or to any person who has worn any uniform of the Armed Forces of this country, and those who have died for the very freedoms that we Americans, even Ms. Lister, enjoy today and every day.

Mr. President, back in 1955, we were taught that the code of the corps is honor, courage, and commitment—honor in the defense of freedom, courage in the face of adversity and commitment to the members of your unit but, more important, to those folks at home.

I am very proud to say that these principles have guided my life, and I hope that these would be the principles that our society could emulate, not

values that should be considered "disconnected" with the norm. I am wondering who is really disconnected here.

The corps has always presented to its new members a challenge for higher standards and higher achievements. In its 222-year history, they are incomparable and, yes, they are the guiding light of all services and something of which every American can be proud.

I understand Ms. Lister has sent an apology to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Krulak. That might be enough for him, but it is not enough for me. She claims that she was quoted out of context. I don't accept that either. No one service should be placed over another. Nobody has a corner on bravery or valor or commitment to this country. But you must remember that it was these men and women who fought and died for the blessings of liberty for our Nation, and no one should forget that their words still reflect today.

So I am saying Secretary Lister should resign her post, because I personally think that she is unfit to serve in a leadership position in the military of this Nation. I am very sad about this day.

#### GALLATIN EXCHANGE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, we just introduced a placeholder in a bill on the Gallatin exchange to preserve that option. It expires December 31. It is a land exchange in the Gallatin National Forest. I support that land exchange. I did not want to get into an adjournment situation and let the time run out and not have a placeholder, because I am concerned about one area in particular, as is everybody. I heard the concerns of my constituents in the Bridger Bang Tail area of the Gallatin National Forest and in the Taylor Creek area. This area has to be kept in the condition that it is now because it is probably the most important migration area for wildlife we have from Yellowstone Park into Montana and out of Montana. This is a migration corridor that must be protected.

We have an obligation to complete this land exchange. It is a good land exchange. It is the right thing to do for that particular part of our country, and I will support it. Of course, the delegation from Montana will get together and work out the details. But I wanted to put that in there to make sure that our options are left open when Congress comes back into session, because I feel very strongly about this area, about the preservation of this area in the management of forests, especially in very fragile areas and in areas that are very, very important to the migration of wildlife, in particular elk and deer. We have introduced that placeholder for those reasons today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to

speak for up to 15 minutes as if in morning business.

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

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that David Schindel, who is a fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this period of morning business.

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

#### ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE EDUCATION

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, as we prepare to complete this first session of the 105th Congress, I want to take a moment to look back at one of the great bipartisan accomplishments that we have made this year, and also to look forward to some important work that still lies ahead.

I am referring specifically to the work we have been able to do in putting advanced technology to work to improve education in the country.

Technology and better use of technology is critical in my home State of New Mexico. It is a big State. We have only a few concentrations of population and economic activity, and technology offers us a way to bring communities closer together and offers us a way to eliminate the gaps that separate the "haves" and the "have-nots" in our State and throughout the country.

In more than half of American households with incomes of over \$50,000, the children have access to a computer at home. But in my State the average family earns about \$26,000, and in that income range the estimate is that one in four children in those homes will have access to a computer.

We need to do better in the public sector, Mr. President, in providing technology in our schools so that we can use technology to narrow the gap between the haves and have-nots, rather than to allow that gap to increase.

In the past year, several magazines have published articles that have challenged the idea that technology in schools can really improve education. The Atlantic Monthly had a cover story called "The Computer Delusion." There have been articles that consider computers in schools to be "snake oil" or "the filmstrip of the 1990's," just to cite some of the phrases used.

Those articles are one reason I was interested in several recent reports that have reviewed the hundreds of research studies on the effects of educational technology on student achievement. The Educational Testing Service [ETS] did a report. Also, there has been a study commissioned by the Software Publishers Association [SPA]. The research results are uneven, but there are solid peer-reviewed studies that show significant improvement in