

well as the American inspection system are not ready to protect the American driving public. There is no infrastructure. There is inadequate personnel. There are not weigh stations. There are not even telephones. There are not parking spaces. There is an avalanche of old Mexican trucks, without requirements for safety or background or design, that are coming to the United States.

This Nation has spent more than 50 years modernizing its trucking industry, learning about safety, training drivers, ensuring that they understand how to operate these rigs. After 50 years of experience, and lowering mortality rates, we are now opening our borders to Mexican trucks.

I recognize that this issue is difficult because of our close relations with Mexico and our obligations under NAFTA. Indeed, on February 6 an international arbitration panel ruled that the United States cannot bar all Mexican applicants from entering the United States. The United States wants to comply with its international obligations. But the arbitration panel also found that because of vast differences between the two regulatory regimes, the United States did not have to treat Mexican applicants the same as it did United States or Canadian applicants.

The panel indicated that NAFTA did not restrict the ability of the United States to implement measures to ensure that Mexican trucking companies and their drivers meet United States standards. I quote:

Nor does it (NAFTA) require that Mexican-domiciled firms currently providing trucking services in the U.S. be allowed to continue to do so, if and when they fail to comply with U.S. safety regulations.

Later on the panel added:

U.S. authorities are responsible for the safe operation of trucks within U.S. territory, whether ownership is American, Canadian or Mexican.

I believe the authority of the U.S. Government in this area is clear. We have the right—indeed, we have the obligation—to ensure that our citizens are safe and our highways are operated to the very highest standards. The record in the United States, for all of our efforts, is not overwhelmingly positive. Despite 50 years of efforts, the highest design requirements in the world, the best training in the world, over 5,000 Americans are killed every year and over 100,000 people are injured on American highways because of accidents with heavy trucks.

There is no one in the Senate who can credibly argue that if Mexican trucks are allowed in the United States without adequate inspection, without modernizing the infrastructure, without a tremendous change in the operating performance of these old Mexican trucks, with poorly trained drivers, and no experience with modern regulations, these 5,000 deaths are not going to be increased and the loss of life will not be considerable.

Mr. President, I believe this case is compelling. There are few times Members of the Senate can cast a vote knowing that the results are potentially so dramatic. The citizens of our States are already frustrated with crowded highways that are deteriorating under heavy use. The loss of life from accidents is inexplicable—100,000 injured Americans.

To now open American highways to Mexican trucks, given their record of compliance, the failures of infrastructure, is to guarantee an increase in this dangerous situation.

I urge defeat of Senator MCCAIN's efforts. Then the Senate needs to seriously consider whether the compromise that is in the legislation is sufficient to protect American families.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. MURRAY. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. TORRICELLI. I am happy to yield.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank the Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 6:40 p.m., we lay aside the pending Murray amendment, that the Senate vote in relation to the Fitzgerald-Bayh amendment regarding the Chicago airports, and that no second-degree amendments will be in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to ask a question of the chairman. I didn't want to object. Will this be the last vote today?

Mrs. MURRAY. I cannot answer that question at this time. Senator DASCHLE has indicated he would like a number of votes, but I don't know the answer to that. I will ask the leader.

Mr. THOMAS. Would it be fair to ask—we have been in morning business almost all day—what kind of a management operation do we have going on here?

Mrs. MURRAY. I would tell the Senator that we have been working diligently all day long to move the Transportation appropriations bill. There are a number of Members on his side who have some concerns about the underlying provisions regarding safety of Mexican trucks, and we have been unable to move forward on that issue at this time. We hope to continue to work to resolve that issue and to move this bill forward.

Mr. THOMAS. We hear from the leader we will move forward. We have a lot of things to do. Yet we spend the whole day, frankly, accomplishing very little.

Mrs. BOXER. Will Senator MURRAY yield for a question?

Mrs. MURRAY. I am happy to yield.

Mrs. BOXER. I am confused by that colloquy. It is my understanding that a Republican Senator, or, rather, two Republican Senators had asked the Demo-

cratic manager and, for that matter, I am sure the Republican manager, to discuss an underlying provision of the bill. That is what has been happening. As a matter of fact, that Republican Senator came out to thank Senator MURRAY for agreeing to sit and negotiate. Am I right on that point?

Mrs. MURRAY. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. Isn't the reason for the delay to work out this problem?

Mrs. MURRAY. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. And the request came from two Republican Senators?

Mrs. MURRAY. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank my friend for sharing that information.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, 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.

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

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 1058 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1025

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY], for Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. LUGAR, proposes an amendment numbered 1058 to amendment No. 1025.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(Purpose: Relating to commercial air service at the Gary-Chicago Airport)

On page 55, line 2, insert after "access," the following: "increasing commercial air service at the Gary-Chicago airport, and increasing commercial air service at the Greater Rockford Airport".

On page 55, line 7 insert after "Chicago area" the following: ", including Northwest Indiana".

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to Amendment No. 1058. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows: