

someone in the Nevada delegation issued a statement that some bill had passed. Oh, I thought, good times are here. Little did I know that what you needed was an appropriation to go along with that authorization. I do not think the President of the United States is being fair to the American public by not recognizing that you need to do more than authorize; you need to appropriate. And he will not help us with that. So to go down to Florida today and have a big cheerleading session with students about "I am the guy who is going to help you with education" when he is unwilling to help us finance education is wrong.

I don't know how many more people have to lose their jobs, lose their cars, lose their homes. How many will it take before we have the President telling us we need a new budget? The old budget will not work. The economy will not be fixed by hastily arranged press conferences such as we had last week when they found there was a 4.9-percent unemployment rate. There was a quick press conference held, and all the congressional leadership ran to the White House, and that is where they came up with this brilliant statement; it doesn't matter what is happening now; what we need to look at is what going to happen a year from now.

We need to work with the President in righting this problem, but we need some direction from the White House.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 3 years ago a young man by the name of Steve Rigazio, president and chief operating officer for the largest utility in Nevada, Nevada Power—a fine, fine young man—was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. It is a devastating illness that affects the nerve cells in the spinal cord and causes muscles to wither and die very quickly. He has lived longer than people expected. The normal time from the time of diagnosis, when you are told you have this disease, until the time you die, is 18 months. He has lived 3 years. He no longer works. He finally had to give up his job.

Because Lou Gehrig's disease attacks the body but leaves the mind intact, this vibrant man has had to watch his body deteriorate around him. He is a man of great courage, and I hope he lives much longer than people expect. He deserves it.

I have had visiting me for a number of years now two beautiful little girls from Las Vegas. They are twins. They are now 12 years old. One of the twins, Mollie Singer, has struggled with juvenile diabetes since she was 4 years old. She has had thousands of pricks of her skin—thousands. She is a beautiful little girl who believes that we in Washington can help her not have to take all these shots. As do the million Americans who suffer from this illness, Mollie fears that her kidneys will fail, she will get some kind of infection and

have one of her limbs amputated or even lose her sight as a result of this diabetes.

There is something that gives Mollie and Steve hope, and that is stem cell research. It gives hope to tens of millions of Americans and their families who, like Steve Rigazio and Mollie Singer, suffer from Lou Gehrig's disease, diabetes, or Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, lupus, heart disease, spinal cord injuries, and other illnesses. Since stem cells can transform into nearly all the different tissues that make up the human body, they can replace defective or missing cells. Scientists are really very optimistic that one day stem cells will be used to replace defective cells in children with juvenile diabetes or even to create rejection-free organs.

Knowing that stem cells may have the power to save and improve lives, we cannot deny researchers the tools they need to fully realize the potential of stem cells. If we fail to seize promising research opportunities, we will fail millions of Americans and their families and people all over the world.

Early last month, President Bush announced he would limit Government funding for research to the stem cell lines that already existed at the time of his announcement. This was obviously a political compromise. I am pleased that the President left the door open for Federal funding of stem cell research in some capacity, but I am very concerned that he has not opened the door far enough to allow scientists to fully realize the life-saving potential of stem cells.

Last week, Secretary Thompson announced that no more than 25 of the 64 stem cell lines the National Institutes of Health listed as falling under the President's criteria are fully developed. We still do not know whether the remaining 40 stem cell lines would be useful to science. What we do know about the 25 viable stem cell lines that fall under the President's guidelines is very troubling. Why? Most, if not all, of the existing stem cell lines have been mixed with mouse cells. As a result, these cells could transfer deadly animal viruses to people, human beings.

It is also unclear whether these cells will be suitable for transplanting into people. Just last week, Dr. Douglas Melton, a professor of molecular and cellular biology at Harvard, testified that cells derived from mice "have proven unreliable over time for research, either dying out or growing into diseased forms."

Even though scientists are working on ways to grow human embryonic cell lines without using mouse cells, they will not be eligible for Federal research money because they will be created after President Bush's arbitrary August 12 deadline. Last week the administration confirmed it would not reconsider this deadline, even if it were later discovered that none of these cell lines was suitable for long-term research.

If we fail to fund research for the new stem lines that are created without mouse cells, foreign scientists will still conduct research on stem cell lines that fall outside his guidelines. This research is going to go forward. Shouldn't it go forward under the greatest scientific umbrella in the history of the world, the National Institutes of Health? The answer is yes, that is where it should go forward, not in the little communities throughout the world that are trying to get a step up on the United States. This research is going to go forward. Let's do it the right way.

As a result of the guidelines of the President, we will not have the ability to provide any oversight of this research, if it is done overseas, to ensure that it is conducted by ethical means. Not only will we risk losing our most talented scientists to foreign countries, but we also jeopardize our potential as a nation to remain a world leader in stem cell research.

Over the course of the next several months, scientists will continue to determine whether President Bush's policy will allow stem cell research to advance at a reasonable pace. As we continue to evaluate the President's funding guidelines, we need to keep in mind that millions of Americans who suffer from devastating illnesses do not have the luxury of time—Steve Rigazio as an example. We cannot continue to dangle the hope of cure or the promise of scientific breakthrough before these patients and their families without adequately supporting research to allow scientists to achieve these very important discoveries.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2500, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from South Carolina, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, is recognized.