

To allow them to sell less productive assets and reinvest into more productive assets will be very stimulative to this country's economy. It will produce jobs and economic growth and opportunity. But they are locked out of that at the present time by the Tax Code. My amendment proposes to change that result and I hope we will get an opportunity to consider it during the debate on the economic stimulus package.

One final point: The Kyl amendment, of which I am supportive, dealing with tourism is an amendment to which I want to offer a second-degree amendment dealing with loan guarantees. It would cost \$200 million or \$300 million over the 10-year period. It deals with a subject about which I have spoken with Senator KYL and Senator REID.

Many of the businesses connected to the airports and the airlines that were shut down post-September 11 are in desperate condition. A program of loan guarantees dealing with the most fragile of those businesses which were shut down through no fault of their own—through edict by the Federal Government—would be appropriate in those unusual circumstances and would be guaranteed by an amendment attached to the Kyl amendment.

I hope to be able to offer that as a second-degree amendment dealing with travel agents, car rentals, and others attached to airports which suffered just as much as the airlines did when the airlines were ordered to be shut down and there was no travel anywhere in the country for a specific period.

As I indicated, I noticed the previous amendments yesterday. I wanted to indicate that I would be prepared to offer a second-degree amendment to Senator KYL's amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

VOICE OF INQUIRY

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, the President of the United States has challenged the Nation to commit an additional \$120 billion in resources for our Armed Forces. Indeed, when the Nation is attacked, that is as it should be. The President has asked us to commit \$40 billion to deal with internal security in our country. With the loss of life we have suffered and all of our apprehension about terrorism, that is as it should be. It is, however, an extraordinary request.

While our willingness to commit resources is endless to guarantee the security of our country, our national curiosity about these circumstances and how our country was so vulnerable seems to be very limited indeed.

It has been 5 months since the lives of our people were taken in the most devastating attack on America in history. There have been words of rage and revenge, vows to strengthen our security and to commit endless resources. There has been everything except a voice of inquiry.

On September 10, this Nation was not without resources, with a \$320 billion defense establishment larger than a dozen other industrial nations combined; a massive internal law enforcement apparatus; and, by press accounts, a \$30 billion intelligence establishment.

The terrorist attack on September 11 apparently was waged with the combined financial resources of \$250,000. It was implemented by 19 people. Why is it I believe that probably financial resources were not determinative in the success of this evil attack? Why is it that I suspect it was probably not the numbers of personnel available? The country was not without resources on September 10. But something went terribly wrong. The allocation of resources, quality of leadership, strategy—I don't know. The real point is neither does anybody else, including the President of the United States and Members of the Senate.

At some point, 260 million Americans, with all the rage they feel against our enemy, with all the anger they feel, and with all the sympathy they feel for the victims, are going to want to know what happened and why.

There is no limit to the resources that I will vote to make available to the Commander in Chief to defend this Nation. But there is no limit to the efforts I will make to get accountability in this Government for our people.

In my State, there are hundreds—indeed, there are several thousands—of widows and orphans. As much as any American, as much as history itself, these people are going to demand answers in the course of their lives.

The President has suggested his preference is that we hold private hearings in the intelligence community. That is not how we conduct this Government. There was not an attack on the intelligence committee, nor is it their responsibility alone. Our accountability is to the people of the country. Yet the administration claims that such hearings or inquiries would be a distraction from the war on terrorism. That is not our history or how we conduct our Government.

Ten days after Pearl Harbor, with half of the American fleet in ruins and with fears of an attack on California by the Imperial Japanese Navy, FDR ordered an inquiry into how indeed we were so undefended. The *Challenger* lay in ruins with all of our ambitions for a space program, and Ronald Reagan did the same for NASA. This instance deserves no less. Accountability is at the core of any representative government.

On behalf of the people of my State and the victims—their wives, husbands, parents, and children—I demand it now. This Nation needs a board of inquiry to determine the events of September 11—how it occurred and why; where we succeeded and why we failed—not for the sake of revenge, not to cast blame, but to ensure that it never happens again. Armed only with that knowledge—more than any fund-

ing or any new weapon—can we genuinely assure our people that those events will not be repeated.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, during the conferences we have had, it has been determined we could have a voice vote on the Bunning amendment. So I ask unanimous consent that after the Chair reports the bill, we move to the Bunning amendment, followed by the Reid for Baucus amendment. It is not a Reid amendment; I just offered it for Senator BAUCUS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOPE FOR CHILDREN ACT— Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the adoption credit, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Daschle/Baucus amendment No. 2698, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid (for Baucus) amendment No. 2721 (to amendment No. 2698), to provide emergency agriculture assistance.

Bunning/Inhofe modified amendment No. 2699 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2698), to provide that the exclusion from gross income for foster care payments shall also apply to payments by qualified placement agencies.

Hatch/Bennett amendment No. 2724 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2698), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the carryback of certain net operating losses for 7 years.

Domenici amendment No. 2723 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2698), to provide for a payroll tax holiday.

Allard/Hatch/Allen amendment No. 2722 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2698), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit and to increase the rates of the alternative incremental credit.

Smith of New Hampshire amendment No. 2732 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2698), to provide a waiver of the early withdrawal penalty for distributions from qualified retirement plans to individuals called to active duty during the national emergency declared by the President on September 14, 2001.

Smith of New Hampshire amendment No. 2733 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2698), to prohibit a State from imposing a discriminatory tax on income earned within such State by non-residents of such State.

Smith of New Hampshire amendment No. 2734 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2698), to provide that tips