

statement or utility bill or any other kind of paycheck stubs with their name and address on it. Any of those people who do exist can vote provisionally, and they should be able to vote provisionally. I think there is a handful at most, and we will accommodate them through provisional voting. But I am most worried, for future elections, that there were 30,000 names that came in out of the blue, mail-in registrations that had not been checked in the city of St. Louis. I would like to believe they are all legitimate voters who all of a sudden got the real view that they ought to register in one two-day period. But 15 percent of the electorate? I don't think so.

Mr. President, I am not willing to give up on this process. But I am not willing to see a bill go through that makes it easier to vote and easier to cheat. I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, first of all, I thank my colleague from Missouri for his expression of trying to find some common ground. We know each other pretty well, and I would never question the motivations of my friend from Missouri. He brings a lot of passion to matters he cares about. I like people who do that.

As he knows, there has been a tireless effort to cobble together a proposal here that would enjoy the broad-based support of this institution. We are dealing with 98 other colleagues, and when you deal with a matter like elections, everybody is an expert. We have all been through them and everybody has a point of view—unlike in other matters where members can defer to other colleagues. Here everybody has something to contribute to the discussion and debate. I accept his words here to try to find some resolution of the situation we are in. That is what I have tried to do for a couple of weeks. Sometimes you need to have the votes, because then you know where; you are. Votes will let you know.

This place is pretty equally divided on this issue. We have to try to find something here where a center can gather and move the bill forward. We are hoping to do that.

On the second-degree amendment—and I appreciate him offering an amendment that is substantive and that goes to the heart of this. It is not a frivolous amendment. It is one not the least of which is—I presume the amendment refers to the U.S. Attorney General. My colleague indicates that is the case. The concern, I suppose, we hear from all States is that in this bill they want to avoid to have the Justice Department all of a sudden be reaching into States. We are already trying to become a better partner in the election process, and that attorneys general, regardless of party, can all of a sudden, under this amendment, be engaged in some “fishing expeditions” on some of these matters—I think we would all be concerned about that.

There may be something we can work on that may provide a means by which

we can come to an agreement on the issue of signatures and attestations. Let me say to my friend as well—and he and I went through this a great deal, back an forth, on how we can resolve these issues. As I understand it—and it gets hard trying to identify exactly what each State does—there are 28 or 29 States that do an attestation or signature. I may be off by a State or 2. As I went down the list and tried to determine how many States do that, many of these States believe that is a very viable means by which to deal with the fraud issue.

I know my colleague from Missouri has had different experience in his State. I don't argue with that, except to say that around the country there are different views on how best to achieve these results. There is nothing in here, obviously, that precludes the photo ID from being a part of that means of identification. The issue is whether or not we are going to, in some way, restrict these other means of verification that a majority of States have been comfortable with over the years, and then if there is something else we might add to that to address the concerns the Senator from Missouri raised.

Aside from these particular amendments that are pending, I will point out that, historically, the efforts of enforcement have to be in the States; that is, where there is a problem of fraud, the States have to pursue it. The Presiding Officer brings to this issue more than a casual acquaintance with these issues having been—the Secretary of State in his State worked directly in these areas. I presume he could bring to this discussion some additional thoughts and ideas, and I am grateful to him for that.

As I said, the attestation and signature have been used, and many States are comfortable with that. I am hopeful we can find some mechanism which will allow us to get beyond this particular issue in such a way that while it would not do everything, as my colleague from Missouri might want, it certainly will do more than the present situation.

What I suggest, because we have to resolve this one way or the other, is that we take some time and get our respective staffs together and sit down and skull on this and see if we can hammer out some ideas and come back with some proposals on how we might deal with this.

My friend from Missouri is nodding in the affirmative. Rather than talking, it seems to me we would be advised to sit down and see, over the next half hour or hour, if we can come back with some ideas for consideration. That is the path we will follow.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business until 1 p.m., with Senators allowed to speak for not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Indiana, I ask unanimous consent the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Indiana, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the chair.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:16 p.m., recessed until 12:27 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. STABENOW).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, the managers of the bill and staff are working through the amendment that is now before the Senate and trying to resolve this issue. We hope we can move forward on this legislation. There has been a tremendous amount of time spent on it. The majority leader indicated that he wants to move this legislation as quickly as possible. The energy legislation is waiting until this bill is completed in some form or fashion. I hope everyone will understand it will be to everyone's benefit if we can proceed. There has been a hue and cry from the other side that we need to do the energy legislation. The only thing holding up our moving to that is the legislation now before the Senate, the reform bill on the election process in America. I hope that can be done as soon as possible.

We are now in a period of morning business until 1 o'clock. At that time, the decision will be made as to what will transpire thereafter.

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.

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