

have gotten there? Where are you going? You don't know.

Maybe I have missed it, but I don't think any of us are clear on the clearly stated mission of Amtrak and any standards by which the achievement of that mission should be judged. I would be happy to have a discussion—and this is the appropriate place to do it—on what should be the mission of Amtrak. Maybe for my edification, I ask my friend from New Jersey to cite to me what the written mission of Amtrak is because I will have to admit, I am not familiar with that specific mission statement and the standards and goals by which Amtrak and the FRA and we in Congress can judge the effective accomplishment of the objectives within the parameter of that mission. Through the Chair, I ask my friend from New Jersey to enlighten me.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Missouri for asking this question at this moment because I have here existing law, which is continued in S. 294. Here, in existing law, it says the purpose of the management is:

By using innovative operating and marketing concepts, Amtrak shall provide intercity and commuter rail passenger transportation that completely develops the potential of modern rail transportation to meet the intercity and commuter passenger transportation needs of the United States.

The first goal is to:

use its best business judgment in acting to minimize the U.S. Government subsidies, including—

And it lists a number of these things which I will submit for my colleague and friend to take a look at and see if these questions are not already dealt with.

Yes, we have to be more diligent. There is no doubt we have to fill the board of Amtrak's open positions. We have not done that. We want to expand the board to a more significant body of opinion. We are doing all kinds of things.

I have an affection for the State of Missouri, having been a soldier there many years ago and trying to dig foxholes in the Ozark Mountains. We know what steels the spine of those people who live in Missouri now. It is the depth and the quality of the rock upon which most of Missouri is built. That is why the railroad contributes so much, for instance, from Chicago to St. Louis, Kansas City to Kansas City.

But in the final analysis, I think it is important to note a significant difference between business operations. I was fortunate enough to run a fairly large company; but business to business. However, it is clearly stated that Amtrak is a not-for-profit organization. When we look at what happens with good business operations and think of the subsidy that has been given to the airlines—it was as a result of a terrible calamity in American history, 9/11—but over \$20 billion has been given to the airlines, for-profit businesses. They are doing very well right

now, I might add, and still getting subsidies.

I think, in fairness, we will have a chance to look at this further. We are pressed by several things, not the least of which is that there are others who would like to be included in the debate. I will be happy to loan the Senator from Missouri my copy of the existing law, if he would like to borrow it for a while.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, if I may respond, I don't see any clearly defined mission. If my colleague doesn't agree that Amtrak should be providing efficient and effective passenger service in those travel markets in which passenger rail offers a trip time and service quality, competitive or complementary travel option consistent with the goal of continuing to reduce Federal operating subsidies—we are not saying it should be a for-profit company, but it certainly should not be a continual growing loss operation.

I believe we must have some discipline that I do not see in the law and particularly saying "best business practices"—best business practices to do what?

I hope we can continue this discussion, and I thank the Chair and my colleagues for the time.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I understand we are ready to go to morning business.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I had previously requested the right to speak for 30 minutes in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That had been granted.

AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wish to talk this morning about the President's request for \$190-plus billion in emergency funding for the war in Iraq and for activities in Afghanistan.

Before I do that, however, I wish to mention the subject of Iran. I notice in the paper this morning, and I noticed the other day in a press conference by President Bush, he made a reference to world war III in a description of the issues with Iran. I am very concerned about what I hear from this administration. This administration has had a history of describing for us how they see the world. Many of us have spent a lot of time in classified, top-secret briefings with members of this administration, some of whom are now speaking out now about Iran. They include Secretary of State Condoleezza

Rice, Vice President DICK CHENEY, and others. We have had plenty of experience in top-secret briefings with them in which they described circumstances with respect to the country of Iraq.

It turns out what we were told in top-secret briefings about Iraq was not accurate. No one has done the in-depth investigation to find out why that was the case. It appears to me, in some cases that which was described to us by top-level folks in this administration about Iraq prior to the Iraq war—in some cases, it turns out they either should have known, and in some cases may have known, that what they were saying to the Congress and to the American people was not accurate.

My point is this. I think there is precious little credibility on the part of the administration on these issues. I do not—I would say most of my colleagues feel the same—do not want this administration moving off precipitously based on information they have, to take military action of any type against another country. They certainly cannot in my judgment do that without the consent of Congress. I believe they would have a very difficult time getting the consent the Congress, given the lack of credibility in this administration on many of these issues.

These are important issues. Preventing the country of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon is a very important mission, in my judgment. But we will best accomplish that through diplomatic means with other countries, particularly with the Europeans and the Russians and many others. I must say my own view is that the foreign policy of this administration—I regret to say it—has largely been an inept and a clumsy foreign policy at best. We face, as a result of it, very substantial challenges around the world. My hope is that we see much more action on diplomacy and negotiation and working to form alliances and much less front-page headlines by members of this administration.

Now I wish to talk about priorities. I wish to talk about the President's request for \$196 billion in emergency funding, none of it paid for. But first I want to talk about this little girl. This little girl, her name is Ta'Shon Rain Littlelight. Ta'Shon Rain Littlelight is from the Crow Nation in Montana. She loved to dance, as you can see—sparkling, beautiful eyes, 5 years old, loved to dance the Indian dances.

Ta'shon's grandmother testified at a hearing I held at the Crow Reservation in Montana, with my colleague, Senator TESTER. Her grandmother told us a story about Ta'Shon Rain Littlelight. Ta'Shon died, by the way. This little girl with the bright eyes and the love of dancing isn't with us anymore. Ta'Shon had health problems. Last year she was taken, many times, to the Crow Indian Health Service clinic. They were treating her—after they had diagnosed various things—they were treating her for depression. It turned out this little girl didn't have