

who are married will be taxed less than under the Democratic tax plan. Senior citizens will also enjoy tax relief under the McCain tax plan.

The Senator from Arizona is doing the right thing in reducing the corporate tax rates. After all, our Nation has the second highest corporate tax rate in the world. That causes companies to move their operations overseas. Both Senator OBAMA and Senator MCCAIN have alluded to the competitive problem our corporations face because of high tax rates. There is an added benefit to reducing corporate rates. The answer is: a tax cut for middle-class seniors. Well, the incidence of the reduction of corporate tax rates falls on capital. The Congressional Budget Office tells me that the burden of the corporate tax falls on capital, and so does the Tax Policy Center.

So because seniors hold investments in corporations—as evidenced by the fact that almost a quarter of all Americans claiming dividends are seniors—they will see the benefits of lowering corporate tax rates. This means they will see their taxes go down if the corporate tax rate is reduced. Married seniors in particular will see their taxes go down more than under the tax plan of the Senator from Illinois, and in some cases the senior taxes would go up under the Democratic tax plan.

The Tax Policy Center has indicated that low-income seniors, those earning up to \$32,000, would see their taxes go up by close to \$150 under OBAMA's tax plan. Contrast this with Senator MCCAIN's plan, where these same low-income seniors would see tax cuts of over \$150.

The Senator from Illinois may not believe me. After all, he has promised no new taxes for families earning less than \$250,000, and that these taxpayers would receive a tax cut. But here on this chart, it is in black and white. According to the Tax Policy Center, seniors with a total income up to approximately \$24,500 and \$32,000 would see a tax cut of \$186 and \$154 respectively. That is under the McCain plan. Under the Obama plan, these same seniors would see their taxes go up by \$157 and \$131 respectively. That is a tax increase. And if your income is around \$83,000, you will see a tax increase of \$364 under OBAMA. Compare that to a \$431 tax cut under the McCain plan.

Let's look at single seniors. If you are a single senior with a total income around \$21,000, you will see your taxes go up \$118 under Senator OBAMA's tax plan and they will go down \$140 under Senator MCCAIN.

So I ask the Senator from Illinois whether he would like to revise and extend his remarks. He says no new taxes and tax cuts for people making less than \$250,000. But as we can see here, that is not true. And the tax increase is on one of the most vulnerable segments of our society: our seniors.

I would like factcheck.org to post the Tax Policy Center's numbers on their Web site, and I want seniors in Penn-

sylvania, Florida, Ohio, Missouri, and my home State of Iowa to read this and study it. Don't buy a pig in a poke. Be wary of a unified government. We need to make sure that we install in the Presidency people who are going to keep tax rates low on seniors.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I understand we have up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

#### STORM DISASTERS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, before I begin speaking about the disaster occurring in Louisiana and in parts of Texas, and refer briefly to some of the other disasters that have struck, I wish to respond briefly to some of the remarks the Senator from Iowa made.

We don't have time for a debate, and I respect my friend on the other side a great deal, but had the Democrats followed the Republican leadership in trying to privatize Social Security, many seniors would be in a very difficult situation right now, as you know. The Republican Party has for years tried to privatize Social Security. What a terrible situation we would be in had we allowed that to happen. But we and some others, a few on their side, stopped it from happening. I can hardly tell you what the situation would be for our seniors, whether they are on the poor end of our economic scale, the middle end, or the higher end, with Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers and others that are now collapsing.

So I know we will have a great deal of debate about which economic policy is the best, and I know the Senator rattled off quite a few numbers regarding Social Security, but I couldn't help myself as I was standing here thinking: Thank goodness we didn't privatize Social Security. Because whatever situation he has outlined, it would be a thousand percent worse for our seniors today. So I thank the junior Senator from Illinois from stopping that from happening, along with myself and many others.

I came to the floor today, however, to speak about the disasters unfolding in Louisiana and Texas and other parts of our country. I know as this Congress gets ready to adjourn, we have done some significant work over the last couple of months, and we have more work to do, we do need to get on an energy debate for this Nation, and I am hoping something can be worked out there. We also, of course, have a continuing resolution to discuss. But this is only one of several pictures I am going to show of the results of a terrible storm that crashed into the southern part of the United States last week.

Hurricane Ike hit the gulf coast with a ferocious force of winds and tidal surges on September 13. Hurricane Gus-

tav hit us on September 1, and Tropical Storm Fay, while it entered in Florida, or hit our country in Florida, actually did a tremendous amount of damage to other parts of the United States, not only the States along the gulf coast. There was some terrible interior flooding in Arkansas and even up here in this region. As a result, we have homeowners like this.

These photos were sent to us by American Press, from the Lake Charles American Press, and I thank them. This is the parish of Calcasieu, which is right outside the Texas border. So you have the counties, of course, of Houston and Galveston and Beaumont, but right on the other side of that border are Calcasieu Parish and Cameron Parish.

Let's see some of the extension of the damage in these other pictures. This is in a city. This is not in a low-lying area. This is not on a beach. There is not a beach anywhere around here. We have had tidal surges from Ike much higher than I think many people realize.

This is a picture of the eastern part of Louisiana. You all have seen this picture before, and I know you are going to accuse me of actually bringing out an old picture from an old storm. I feel as though I am in Groundhog Day here. But this is actually taken from last week. This is America's energy port. This is Port Fourchon, where 30 percent of the offshore oil and gas from the gulf comes. Port Fourchon. You can't see Port Fourchon, because it is completely underwater.

I feel I am going through the repeat of a movie. We had Katrina, we had Rita, and now we have Fay, we have Gustav, and we have Ike. And while Ike did hit directly into Galveston—and please let me begin by saying that my heart goes out to the people of Galveston and Beaumont and the millions of people right now who still in Texas do not have electricity. We in Louisiana most certainly understand the difficulties from a storm of that nature. But I would be remiss if I didn't come to the floor this afternoon and say that this storm hit more than the Texas coast. It walloped us as well.

This is another part, from southeast Louisiana, I believe. This is Port Fourchon. This is right on the coast. We can understand this happens when storms occur. This is not in the middle of a city. This is not inland. This is right on the coast. But as I have come down to say so many times, when is America going to wake up and realize that these are where our pipelines are? These are where our refineries are. By the nature of pipelines and refineries and ports, they have to be near a coast. They cannot be inland. We need to do a much better job of protecting these communities.

This is in the Houma-Terrebonne area, which is much farther inland. We had some of the worst flooding in Terrebonne Parish, which is really in the southeastern part of the State. Remember, the hurricane really hit

Texas, but the hurricane was so big; it was over 600 miles wide. While it was not a category 4 or 5, it was a massive storm that really flooded parts of Mississippi, almost all of south Louisiana, and Texas.

I see my colleague, the chairman of the committee, coming to the floor. I will at this point yield for just a few moments, as I think they have come to some agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 3001

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, let me first thank our dear friend from Louisiana for allowing this interruption. It is a very important presentation.

In a moment, I am going to propound a unanimous consent request. Before doing that, there has been a lot of inquiry as to whether a managers' package is included in this. It is not. It has been unable to be cleared on the other side, so it is not included in this unanimous consent request, so that everybody understands it.

I now ask unanimous consent that at 6:30 p.m., morning business be closed; that after the bill is reported, all postcloture time be yielded back, the first and second-degree amendment be withdrawn, the bill then be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, it then be in order for the Senate to consider, en bloc, the following calendar items: Nos. 733, 734, and 735; that all after the enacting clause of each bill be stricken and the following divisions of S. 3001, as passed by the Senate, be inserted as follows: Division A, S. 3002; Division B, S. 3003; Division C, S. 3004; that these bills be read a third time, passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, en bloc; further, that the considering of these items appear separately in the RECORD.

Further—and this is what I am going to call the second half of this unanimous consent request—the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 758, H.R. 5658, the House companion, that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 3001, as amended and passed by the Senate, be inserted in lieu thereof; the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the title amendment which is at the desk be considered and agreed to; that upon passage of H.R. 5658, as amended, the Senate insist on its amendments, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees without further intervening action or debate, and that no points of order be considered waived by virtue of this agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and I shall

object, but before doing so, finally, I would like to say to my colleague and Senators on both sides of the aisle, under the leadership of yourself, Mr. Chairman, and to some extent my participation as the acting ranking member and certainly the members of our committee and staff—we have all worked very diligently to achieve a bill. The particular request my distinguished colleague has put to the Senate, to which I shall object, really refers to those items we were unable to reconcile procedurally in the course of some several days of deliberation beginning, perhaps, as early as last Thursday. We were here Friday. We were here Monday and Tuesday. We were unable to achieve the reconciliation. There were objections, I say absolutely candidly and frankly and factually, on both sides. So it is not as if one side has weighed down the other, in my judgment. It has been the inability to reconcile differences between the Senators. I have been here 30 years. I have seen it happen before. It will happen many years after I leave.

At this time, I point out that the cloud seems dark, but the silver lining is that a group of us, 61 in number, voted for cloture. That enabled us to be here at this moment, and there will be a bill at some point in time. There will be an armed services bill by the Senate. I hope it will be favorably acted upon by a majority.

At this time, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, let me first thank my dear friend from Virginia. He is accurate in his statements about differences not being able to be resolved in terms of a number of amendments which we had hoped to get to votes. My statement referred only to a managers' package on which we had cleared about 100 amendments. That is the one I made reference to before.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT—S. 3001

Mr. LEVIN. Given that objection to our going to conference, I now ask unanimous consent that at 6:30 p.m., morning business be closed; that after the bill is reported, all postcloture time be yielded back, the first- and second-degree amendment be withdrawn, the bill be then read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, it then be in order for the Senate to consider en bloc the following calendar items: Nos. 733, 734, and 735; that all after the enacting clause of each bill be stricken and the following divisions of S. 3001 as passed by the Senate be inserted as follows: Division A, S. 3002; Division B, S. 3003; and Division C, S. 3004; that these bills be read a third time, passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; further, that the consideration of these items appear separately in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I join in making that request. There is no objection on this side.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I will again thank my friend for all of his efforts on this bill. He has been, as always, a highly constructive force. We could not even be this far without his great support. I am indebted to him and the Senate is indebted to him, I hope, and the Nation again is indebted to Senator WARNER.

Again, I thank our good friend from Louisiana. We have interrupted her for a little longer than I promised.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, if I might just add, I thank my distinguished colleague and friend for the 30 years we have been together. I am certain this institution will carry on just as well without me—and perhaps even a little bit better. But I have enjoyed our working together these many years. I stop to think, you and I having been here the same number of years, we have served with 273 different Senators in that period of time. I have enjoyed it. I don't know of any relationship, either professional or even simply friendship, that I have enjoyed and profited from more than working with you, Senator. I wish you well as you carry on with this committee.

Madam President, I do want to thank the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee. I have here with me Michael Kostiw, William Caniano, David Morriss, David Collins, Sandy Luff of my personal staff, Marie Dickinson, Paul Hutton, Gergory Kiley, Lucian Niemeyer, Christopher Paul, Lynn Rusten, Robert Soofer, Diana Tabler, and Richard Walsh.

I know my staff would want me to say—and I say it—we have enjoyed working with the majority staff.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

STORM DISASTERS

Ms. LANDRIEU. I see several other colleagues are here on the floor to speak, maybe on this subject or another, so I will say I will reserve for myself another 5 minutes and be finished with my remarks.

I was speaking about the hurricane damage throughout really the southern part of the United States. I do not have the figures from Florida or from Mississippi or Alabama, but we are turning in our figures from Louisiana. Again, I remind my colleagues and the Nation, Fay hit the gulf coast; it hit Florida but devastated parts of the gulf coast and many interior parts of the southeastern part of the United States, with heavy rains and flooding on August 18. Then we had Hurricane Gustav on September 1, which slammed into Louisiana and did a tremendous amount of wind damage to parishes such as Point Coupee and Rapides and Avoyelles Parish—parishes about which you don't hear very much because they are not coastal parishes, but the wind damage