

has never had a hearing in the Senate. There has been no discharge of this from the committee. We have never even voted on this bill. With that, I plan on objecting until I see exactly what has been offered by the majority leader later today.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this exact language passed the House. This is a Republican bill, Senator BOND. My friend is right, it did not go through the committee. I think Senator BOND is right by being the chief advocate over here. Maybe he can help us with Senator COBURN. But the same thing we had before, it passed overwhelmingly. Maybe after he looks at it, he will allow it to pass later on.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 1375

Mr. REID. I want to make a couple of other efforts here. The Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act will help provide support services to women suffering from postpartum depression and psychosis and will also help educate mothers and their families about these conditions. It will support research into the causes, diagnosis, and treatments for postpartum depression. This is something Senator MENENDEZ and others feel extremely strongly about. This matter passed the House of Representatives 382 to 3. Senator COBURN repeatedly blocked the Senate HELP Committee action on the Senate companion bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged of S. 1375; that the Senate immediately proceed to S. 1375; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and that an amendment at the desk consisting of the text of subtitle (d) of title I of S. 3297 be inserted in lieu thereof; that the amendment be considered, agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and a motion to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. I object.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 477

Mr. REID. The next bill I wish to seek unanimous consent on is the STOP Stroke Act. The Cochran-Kennedy STOP Stroke Act will help establish comprehensive systems of stroke care in health care settings and improve the education of first responders to ensure that patients presenting with signs or symptoms of a stroke will receive the highest quality care. The legislation was approved unanimously by the House in 2002. In the last year, it has been approved by voice votes in the Senate and House committees and on the House floor.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate HELP Committee be discharged of H.R. 477; the Senate immediately proceed to the bill; that the bill be read

a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that there be no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Reserving the right to object, five different Government agencies already have significant programs in that. This bill does not eliminate any of those, make improvements in those, just lays a layer of bureaucracy on top of that. With that, I object.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 4120

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are now moving to title II in the Advancing America's Priorities Act, which was a set of Judiciary Committee bills blocked by Senator COBURN and supported by the Republicans. The bills Senator COBURN blocked included the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, to help solve unsolved civil rights-era crimes; the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act; the reauthorization of the successful Drug Endangered Children Program, to help kids who are victims of the drug trade; the PROTECT Our Children Act, to stop dangerous Internet child predators, molesters, and pornographers.

Each of these bills passed the House with broad bipartisan support. Of course they have broad bipartisan support here. Procedurally, we have been blocked because of Senator COBURN, and being procedurally supported by his Republican colleagues. I hope we can pass some of these.

Let's talk about the child pornography prosecution bills. These bills will increase the penalties for child pornography and change the criminal law to make it easier to convict these people. It is amazing that they have been blocked for so long. Hopefully we can get them completed. We have combined them into a single bill to speed enactment. I hope we are clear on these.

I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 4120 be discharged from the Judiciary Committee; that the Senate immediately proceed to the bill; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and an amendment at the desk consisting of text of subtitles (d) and (e) of title II of S. 3297 be inserted in lieu thereof; that the amendment be considered and agreed to, the bill as amended be read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Reserving the right to object, a question for the majority leader: Is this bill similar to what we had discussed in our negotiations and does it, in fact, include the SAFE Act or not?

Mr. REID. This is not the PROTECT Act. These are on child pornography. This is not the PROTECT Act.

Mr. CORNYN. Pending looking at what the majority leader sent over, on our side we look forward to supporting that, should it be as represented by the majority leader. Reserving the right to object, I will object at this time until we have a chance to look at that.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 1199

Mr. REID. Another bill in the Judiciary Committee title package was a bill that reauthorized the Drug Endangered Children Program. There may be families who have not been affected by drugs in some way. It may not be their immediate family. It may be some distant family members, it could be neighbors. But my nephew died of a drug overdose. He had a problem from his time as a teenager until he died at the age of 38 or so. There is a terrible problem with illegal drugs; it leaves many victims. Many are innocent children who are found in homes, hotels, automobiles. My nephew died in a sleazy motel. Among those are innocent children who are found, as I have indicated, in homes, hotels, automobiles, and apartments where all kinds of illegal substances are produced.

The product that is causing so much problem now is meth, methamphetamine. This bipartisan bill would authorize the Department of Justice to award \$20 million per year—remember, this authorizes it—in grants designated to improve coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, child protection services, social service agencies, and health care providers to help transition these drug-endangered children into safe residential environments.

I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1199 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table; that there be no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. I would object pending our review of the legislation.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 293

Mr. REID. One of the bills in this package that has been languishing for well over a year—and I think it is shameful that is, in fact, the case—is the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.

Emmett Till was a 14-year-old boy from Chicago visiting his relatives in Money, MS, way back in 1955 when he was brutally mutilated and killed for whistling at a white woman. Remember, his courageous mother, wanting everyone to see the brutality of how her boy was killed, had an open casket. That open casket said it all.

The killers in this case, like so many others during that time, were never

punished for their violent, treacherous acts. However, by passing this Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act, the Justice Department will have the tools necessary to investigate and prosecute violations of the civil rights statutes in which the alleged violation occurred before January 1 of 1970 and resulted in death.

The bill has broad bipartisan support. I hope we can pass the House-passed bill. That way, the bill will be signed by the President immediately.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 237, H.R. 293, that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MCCASKILL.) Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Reserving the right to object, I have a question for the majority leader. I understood from your statement that this does not have any of the changes we talked about, this is strictly the House-passed bill.

Mr. REID. That is right.

Mr. COBURN. Reserving the right to object further, we will relook at what that is. I will object at this time and hope we can work out with the majority leader what we had discussed earlier in terms of a compromise.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 1738

Mr. REID. Madam President, again, as has happened during this long process where these bills have languished, we keep getting suggestions for changes. We make them, and it does not make any difference. And last night, again, Senator COBURN suggested a change. We certainly can go along with that. We will make the change, send it over to you, and take a look at it.

I want to take a minute to talk about another one of the 34 pieces of legislation that is so important. Its name is "PROTECT Our Children Act," or the PROTECT Act. This bill seeks to increase the prosecution of individuals producing and trading in child pornography by providing funding to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The Crimes Against Children Task Force has developed the ability to identify individuals in the online distribution of child pornography but lacks the manpower needed to pursue and prosecute the offenders. This bill would give the Crimes Against Children Task Force the resources it needs.

This bill would also help promote coordination and strategic planning of Government resources to catch child predators by requiring DOJ to develop and implement a national strategy to combat child exploitation.

This bill would go a long way toward rescuing the thousands of children who are being exploited by child predators. Studies show that 30 percent of the people identified by the Crimes Against

Children Task Force are actively engaged in molesting a child. Yet, right now, of the over 500,000 known cases, we are investigating 2 percent of them because law enforcement does not have the resources to do more.

This legislation was introduced in October 2007 and passed the House about a year ago, 415 to 2. The Senate companion legislation passed the Judiciary Committee. The Senate bill Republican cosponsors include Senators STEVENS, HATCH, HUTCHISON, and MURKOWSKI. So it is the right thing to do to pass this bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 862, S. 1738, that a substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Reserving the right to object, a question again for the majority leader. As confused as I was on a previous act, this does not include the language of the SAFE Act?

Mr. REID. That is right. The reason it doesn't—there are lots of reasons it doesn't, but we have a letter from the Justice Department. The Justice Department—Bush's Justice Department we all know about—decided to take a look at that. Even the Bush Justice Department said this needs a lot more work. Keep in mind, I have described in detail what we are trying to do. The SAFE Act the Senator is talking about is a different piece of legislation, and it should not be tied into what we are trying to do with this child pornography thing. I would hope we would get this done. We will be happy to work with the Justice Department and everybody else to see if we can work something out on the SAFE Act. It is not yet ready for passage. We all agree there is a need to combat Internet pornography. But important questions about the text of Senator COBURN's proposed legislation must be answered. We have questions. I used the Justice Department as an example. It is not only us. It is the Bush Justice Department. While some version of the SAFE Act might pass, let's not fool ourselves. The SAFE Act will help develop leads, but right now only 2 percent of all cases are investigated because law enforcement does not have the resources. The SAFE Act does absolutely nothing to bolster law enforcement resources. The PROTECT Act fills the known hole that has resulted in 98 percent of existing leads on child predators to go uninvestigated.

The Judiciary Committee, the committee of jurisdiction, has not held a hearing on the SAFE Act. It has not been the subject of committee markup. I don't believe any Republican on the committee even formally asked for a markup. It is ironic that Senator COBURN, the self-designated champion of insisting that bills be scrutinized be-

fore passage, now wants to circumvent the legislative process for a bill he never even bothered to raise in committee.

The Justice Department has serious concerns about this act. In a six-page letter sent last year, DOJ made numerous suggestions for improving the text of the bill. Some of the suggestions were addressed in the House version of the bill but many were not. In addition, officials from the Internet service providers that would implement this new law have raised important practical questions. They are concerned about vague definitions and requirements in the bill. There is no point in rushing to pass a bill that will be ineffective or struck down by the courts as unconstitutionally vague.

Last week, I asked my staff to convene a group of Republican and Democratic staffers to try to revise the text of the bill in light of the concerns expressed by the Department of Justice and others. Senator COBURN's staff is part of that effort. I am hopeful we can reach bipartisan agreement on the SAFE Act. The staff negotiations are ongoing. We will continue to work in good faith to get this bill in shape, but we are not there yet. Meanwhile, we are there on the PROTECT Act. It is ready to go. It has been for a long time. We can pass it today and get it to the President's desk immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Continuing my reservation of the right to object, by the same logic that the majority leader has argued on all these other bills, the SAFE Act passed the House 390 to 2. So with the wisdom of the House, under which we are basing all the other requests for unanimous consent, why is that wisdom not any good now with the SAFE Act? The fact is that it isn't. I regret that unless we can pass the PROTECT Act with the SAFE Act and unless we can actually do something—the SAFE Act actually will do something tomorrow, the day it is signed. The PROTECT Act will not do anything until the money comes through Congress a year from now. So the fact is, if we had the SAFE Act, we will stop child pornography faster than if we don't. The question of the fourth amendment rights of child pornographers versus the rights of children being abused is not a hard thing to figure out. With that, I object until we add that to the bill.

Mr. REID. It is interesting how my friend isn't interested in the authorization of money this takes. It is obvious from what we have heard from my friend, supported by his Republican colleagues, that these important pieces of legislation have been held up and are continuing to be held up. That is unfortunate. We have not a single piece of legislation today that has been approved. That is the way it is, this arrangement. I hope the Republicans accept what they have done. They have supported this. The Republicans have