

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

supported Senator COBURN's blocking bills that have passed overwhelmingly in the House. They would pass overwhelmingly here, but Republicans are supporting his procedural blockage of these bills.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 2982

Mr. REID. Another bill is the Run-away and Homeless Youth Protection Act. It would help combat youth homelessness and help protect vulnerable runaway youth. The prevalence of homelessness among young people is high. Recent studies have suggested that more than 2 million young people either run away or are thrown out of homes each year. Many of them become homeless. That this problem continues in the richest country in the world means we need to redouble our commitment and efforts to safeguard our kids.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 751, Calendar No. 2982; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of subtitle (a) of title II 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, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and there be no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Reserving the right to object, pending examination of what we received less than 30 minutes ago—we have to take a look at that, and I will come back to the majority leader—I object.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 2304

Mr. REID. One of the other bills is the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act. This bill was introduced by Senator DOMENICI, who has been a leading advocate throughout his Senate career on issues relating to people who are mentally and emotionally ill. This bill would help ensure that offenders who are mentally ill get the treatment they need. It would provide training and resources to State and local criminal justice systems. The House bill didn't even have a vote. It passed by voice vote, it was so overwhelmingly popular.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 622, S. 2304; that the bill, as amended by committee, 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, pending the information, I will get back to Senator REID. I object until that time.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 3297

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is a homeland security bill in the package that Senator COBURN's office has objected to, being supported by his Republican colleagues. This legislation would establish two programs to assist African Americans and others in conducting genealogical and historical research. It would require the Archivist of the United States to establish, as part of the National Archives, an electronically searchable database and of historic records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction contained within Federal agencies. The bill would also require the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to provide grants to States, colleges, universities, libraries, museums, and genealogical associations to preserve records and establish databases of local records of such information. The bill passed the House 414 to 1.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of subtitle (b) of title VI of S. 3297, that we proceed to that, that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and there be no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Reserving the right to object, with the same answer as before, I object.

Mr. REID. Madam President, directing a question to my friend. He has indicated he is going to look at these. When should we come back and see if we can get some of them done?

Mr. COBURN. My answer, through the Chair, Mr. Majority Leader, I appreciate that you have made concessions on many bills. I have not seen those. My staff is working on what you have sent over 30 minutes ago. I will communicate to you as soon as we finish the review, which should be before 1 o'clock today.

ALS REGISTRY ACT

Mr. REID. One last thing, again, we have been told by our staffs that the ALS question you had has been all taken care of. I assume you will take a look at that and see if that, in fact, is the case.

Mr. COBURN. Answering the majority leader through the Chair, my staff has advised me a moment ago that we have come to agreement on that. I have no objection to the way that is written at this time.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 518, the ALS Registry Act, that all after the enacting clause be stricken and that an amendment at the desk, consisting of a compromise amendment based on the language of subtitle A of title I of S. 3297 be inserted in lieu thereof; that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as

amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 1382) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "ALS Registry Act".*

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

*Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

“SEC. 399R. AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS REGISTRY.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the receipt of the report described in subsection (b)(2)(A), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall—

“(A) develop a system to collect data on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this section as ‘ALS’) and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS, including information with respect to the incidence and prevalence of the disease in the United States; and

“(B) establish a national registry for the collection and storage of such data to develop a population-based registry of cases in the United States of ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS.

“(2) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of the registry established under paragraph (1)(B) to—

“(A) better describe the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States;

“(B) examine appropriate factors, such as environmental and occupational, that may be associated with the disease;

“(C) better outline key demographic factors (such as age, race or ethnicity, gender, and family history of individuals who are diagnosed with the disease) associated with the disease;

“(D) better examine the connection between ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS; and

“(E) other matters as recommended by the Advisory Committee established under subsection (b).

“(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish a committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on the National ALS Registry (referred to in this section as the ‘Advisory Committee’). The Advisory Committee shall be composed of not more than 27 members to be appointed by the Secretary, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of which—

“(A) two-thirds of such members shall represent governmental agencies—

“(i) including at least one member representing—

“(I) the National Institutes of Health, to include, upon the recommendation of the Director of the National Institutes of Health, representatives from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences;