

Senator SNOWE, Senator BOND, and Senator PRYOR have all either been sponsors or cosponsors of major amendments on this bill, and I express my gratitude to all of them.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask that morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009—Continued

Mr. DODD. Madam President, what is the pending business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending bill is S. 896.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to amendment No. 1031, as modified, offered by the Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, before we get to that, I would like to report to Members that we are inching closer to completing action on this legislation. Four amendments remain in order, and votes with respect to these amendments will occur shortly. Those that remain are Schumer amendment No. 1031, as modified; Coburn second-degree amendment No. 1042; Reed of Rhode Island amendment No. 1040, as amended, if amended; and Grassley amendment No. 1021, as modified. Once we have disposed of these four amendments, then the only matter remaining is adoption of the substitute, as amended, and, finally, passage of S. 896. Since there is no time in between, I have given my closing remarks on the value of the legislation.

With that, I guess we turn to Senator SCHUMER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

AMENDMENT NO. 1031, AS MODIFIED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I wish to salute, praise the chairman of our Banking Committee, Chairman DODD, for doing a great job on this bill. I thank him for the good work he has done, and so many others who have worked long and hard on this legislation; Senator SHELBY as well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified with the changes at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we are asking for a simple change that in no way affects the amendment, in no way affects whether it is going to cost anything. The purpose of the underlying amendment is to ensure that tenants of multifamily housing across the coun-

try benefit from the same attention and support of this Government as single-family homeowners will.

We have literally millions of tenants—millions—who, because the homes which they rent are foreclosed, are in very bad shape. They can be removed from their homes. Their homes can deteriorate. Once a home is in foreclosure, often it is not kept up. This is not just in big cities such as New York but around the country. In fact, States such as Tennessee and so many others are on the list which I listed of 15 States that are most affected because it affects not only big multiple dwellings but garden apartments and other residential units. It is unfortunate that the objection is going to stand in the way of helping these tenants.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1031, AS MODIFIED, WITHDRAWN
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I wish to commend my colleague from New York. I say this through the Chair. We will come back to this issue. I understand an objection has been voiced, but I want to thank our colleague from New York. He raises a very important issue and one that needs to be addressed. I commend him for it. There will be other opportunities, I hope, shortly to come back to this issue.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I appreciate that.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 1042

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I believe the next item is the amendment offered by our colleague, Senator COBURN, from Oklahoma.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment to the Reed amendment. What it says is we create a pilot study. We have 69,000 pieces of property we cannot get rid of. It represents \$83 billion in assets to us as a government and to the American people. It is \$83 billion we would not have. What we set up is a pilot program that manages 150 pieces of property a year to dispose of them. It gives 20 percent to the agency, 80 percent back to the Government. It creates a way, in a pilot project, for us to do real property reform.

We have gone through and we have created 250 homeless shelters out of 30,000 properties at a cost of \$300 million. We are spending over \$8 billion a year just maintaining properties we do not want, do not need, yet we cannot get rid of.

This is a simple, straightforward amendment that is common sense.

There is no reason why we should not accept this amendment.

With that, I reserve the remainder of my time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island, in a moment I will make a point of order. But Senator COBURN and I, last night, had a short colloquy. He raises a very legitimate point on a larger issue, and he talked about it last evening at some length. I expressed to him then—and I am very sincere about it—that I would like to work with him. We have a lot of properties out there for which it takes too much money to care for them each year. A lot of them probably ought to be destroyed, as the Senator has pointed out. So I want him to know that the point of order being raised here should not reflect the underlying issue he has raised, and I am committed to work with him on that. I think it is a very good idea and one we ought to be aggressive about.

But having said that, Mr. President, on behalf of Senator JACK REED, I raise a point of order that the pending amendment violates section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I move to waive the budget point of order, and ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota, (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Dorgan	McCaskill
Barrasso	Ensign	McConnell
Bayh	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennett	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Brownback	Grassley	Pryor
Bunning	Gregg	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Carper	Hutchison	Sessions
Chambliss	Inhofe	Shelby
Coburn	Isakson	Snowe
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Collins	Klobuchar	Vitter
Conrad	Kyl	Voinovich
Corker	Lincoln	Warner
Cornyn	Lugar	Webb
Crapo	Martinez	Wicker
DeMint	McCain	

NAYS—46

Akaka	Bond	Cantwell
Baucus	Boxer	Cardin
Begich	Brown	Casey
Bennet	Burr	Dodd
Bingaman	Byrd	Durbin