

has happened in the explosion, it is with such force that some of the metal becomes shrapnel and comes through the bag and in effect becomes lethal projectiles that harm either the driver or the passenger.

For example, on this exploded airbag, I want you to see the size of the hole that was ripped in this bag here. Here is another one. A hole that was ripped. There are holes in other parts of the bag. Obviously this isn't supposed to occur.

As a matter of fact, I visited with a constituent from central Florida. This is a firefighter with a young wife and a young child. A piece of shrapnel, in this particular constituent's case, came into his eye.

Therefore, in his occupation as a firefighter, he will not be able to fulfill the financial support for his family as a firefighter. Four people in this country are confirmed dead, and 100 are injured.

We have a Federal agency that is supposed to be protecting us. It is called the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Recently, because of the attention brought to this matter, they have come out and said they want these recalls, but the recalls first started out at about 4.7 million. It has been doubled to 7.8 million. It is increasing all the time, and it is expected that it will be in the range of 11 million in this country and 16 million recalls worldwide.

Normally, if you could get the recalls done, once it occurs—once the defect is known—then the public is protected.

But it seems like, similarly to some dragging of the feet of automobile manufacturers and their parts manufacturers in the past, that is what is occurring here. What we are also seeing is a Federal agency that in this Senator's opinion has not been right up front, forward leaning, and aggressive to protect the public.

Thus, I have requested of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to get in this and to do several things: First, to make sure that all these recalls are happening, and, secondly, if you are a person who knows of the recall because the automobile manufacturer has sent you a letter, are you going to be wanting to drive around if they tell you they can't fix it immediately? Are you going to be wanting to drive around in an automobile that could suddenly explode and cover you with metal shrapnel, severely injuring or killing you? Of course not.

So where is the automobile manufacturer with regard to giving a loaner until that air bag can be replaced with a safe one or where are they with regard to providing a rental car?

For the automobile company to say we will disable the airbag until we can get the proper replacement, that is not a solution because often the seatbelt and the airbag are designed to work in conjunction with each other to protect the safety of the driver and the passenger. So driving around in a disabled airbag is not a solution. The solution is

prompt replacement of the defective, lethal airbags or, until they can be replaced, to give the customer another automobile that is safe.

Along the way, someone came up with the brilliant idea in the Federal agency that they were going to issue just regional recalls under the assumption that highway humidity, in fact, is one of the causes. They don't know that, but that is one of the suspicious causes. But what does a regional recall do for the protection of the public? Aren't we a mobile society? If you say we have high humidity in my State of Florida, in Texas and in other Southern States, aren't we a mobile society in which people in other parts of the country who own automobiles come to our States? Of course we are.

Oh, by the way, how about some States in the north that have high humidity in the summer—if, in fact, that is the cause. So to say that a solution to the problem is a regional recall is totally ridiculous and the Federal regulatory agency should not be issuing these kinds of edicts if we are serious about protecting the public.

I have recommended, in a letter that has been signed by several of our colleagues to the Secretary of Transportation, Secretary Foxx, that he start imposing the maximum fine allowed by law per day against the automobile manufacturers for any days that are missed in replacing the defective airbags so that people will not have to drive around in cars with this defect.

While we were home over this recess during the election, I had an airbag explode and demonstrate its force. It is severe, and it is quick, as it has to be in order to protect the passenger in an automobile accident.

But if that airbag is defectively constructed so that the explosive force becomes like a hand grenade exploding and sending pieces of a metal into the human body which the very device is supposed to protect, then it is time for action. I hope the folks who are manufacturing and installing these defective airbags indeed are hearing these words of warning.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TAXPAYERS RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

Mr. COBURN. I wish to spend a few minutes talking about a bill that passed the House that has 37 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate that came out of my committee. It is an important transparency item for the American taxpayers called the Taxpayers Right to Know Act.

What most Americans don't realize is there is only one agency that knows

how many programs it has—only one. None of the rest of the Federal agencies know how many Federal programs they are running. They can't put them down, can't list them on a piece of paper.

The GAO has recommended for a long period of time—starting about 3 or 4 years ago—that we should be putting this down when we have the truth in transparency and the truth in accountability act and the transparency act with President Obama. We started this process where the GAO would look for duplication and report it to Congress.

We have a bill that has passed unanimously in the House. It is a bipartisan bill that came with a voice vote out of our committee. All it says is that every agency ought to have to list their programs every year so we can know what they are doing. GAO says that will help immensely in terms of eliminating this \$200 billion to \$300 billion a year in duplication.

We are going to have some unanimous requests later today, and we will have a bill that is on the floor for which the majority leader has once again filled the tree, which allows no amendments whatsoever on the bill.

This bill should be on the floor, should be standing on its own, and should be passed because nobody can honestly object to the agencies not knowing what programs they run, not having a complete list.

I mean, it is counterintuitive that anybody would vote against it. It makes no sense that we don't know that, and we know we need to have it. It is an easy vote for everybody, and the majority leader isn't going to allow an amendment.

So we are not at a new day yet with this present majority leader. This is something that helps every American—Democrat or Republican. It helps us run our government more efficiently, more effectively. It is a good-government amendment, and yet it is not going to be allowed.

I am disheartened that at the end of the year we could actually do some things together that would actually allow us to accomplish real things for the American people that will make a real difference in the long run, but we won't because we don't want to have what was guaranteed to the minority when the Senate was set up—the right to offer amendments.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for up to 5 minutes.

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

LEIGH MAY, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, one of the great honors of being a Member of the Senate is the participation and the confirmation process the Constitution dictates to us on Federal judges and other critical appointees, such as Cabinet members of the President.

I have today a distinct honor and privilege to recommend to all of my colleagues in the Senate a Georgia lawyer who has been nominated by the President of the United States, with the approval of Senator CHAMBLISS and myself, to the Northern District Court of Georgia. Her name is Leigh May. She is an unbelievably exciting, unbelievably knowledgeable, unbelievably accomplished individual.

She graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the top three engineering schools in the United States of America, with honors, in 1993. Then, in 1998, she graduated from the University of Georgia Law School with a juris doctorate degree, magna cum laude in her class.

From 1998 to 2000, she served as a law clerk to Judge Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. She is a partner in the Atlanta office of Butler, Wooten & Fryhofer, LLP, one of the leading law firms in our State. Her practice focuses on complex civil litigation in both the State and Federal courts, and she is currently vice chair of the litigation section of the Atlanta Bar Association. Her ABA rating is unanimously very "qualified."

She is a very talented, very deserving person. I thank the President for his nomination. I thank Kathy Ruemmler, who was his leading advisor at the time, for her cooperation in this nomination.

I close my recommendation to my colleagues by telling them this: Please vote for the cloture motion today so we can vote for confirmation tomorrow.

This May, I was asked to address the University of Georgia's graduation ceremony in Athens, GA. After the speech I made, I went back to the dressing room in the green room, and the dean of the law school came up to me and said: I just want you to know, Mr. ISAKSON, you nominated one of the smartest people to ever graduate from the law school of the University of Georgia when you nominated Leigh May.

I can't think of a higher or a better recommendation, and I commend Leigh May to my colleagues of the Senate with my highest recommendation in the hopes that folks will vote today to go to cloture and vote for the confirmation tomorrow to confirm Leigh May to the Northern District of Georgia.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LESLIE JOYCE ABRAMS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 856.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARK HOWARD COHEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 857.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk—in fact, it is already at the desk—and ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 858.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented