

of money could be better spent doing the same project but at another location. Well, that takes a technical change. There is no difference.

I say to all of my good friends, there is no one who is more conservative than I am by all ratings in my last 22 years in both the House and the Senate. There are no new projects. There is no new spending. The amount of money that was authorized is the same amount of money that is authorized at the present time in the technical corrections bill. So it is not somehow getting some kind of an earmark or something else in it.

I have often said that of all of the systems we use in Washington to accomplish things, probably the transportation system is the best. I don't know of anyone who complains about paying into the highway trust fund when they get gasoline. They want to be sure it is going to go to building highways, repairing bridges. But what we do in the State of Oklahoma is we have eight transportation districts, eight transportation commissioners, all geographically located. They make recommendations. What I do with a transportation bill is I leave it up to them to make the determination as to where that goes. The States are making those decisions. The highway trust fund—there are some States where the money doesn't go straight into transportation. They have been robbing balances of the highway trust fund for as long as I know. We have corrected that problem in the State of Oklahoma. Instead of having it go to other causes, it goes to correcting the crisis we are in right now.

I wish to say that for those of us who are conservatives, this is something that works well. If there is any function of government that needs to be addressed and has to be addressed at the Federal level, it is our roads and highways. We have States such as Montana, big States that have very few people. You still have to get across them. You have the congested eastern States that have the opposite situation. That is why way back in the Eisenhower administration they decided to go in together and create this system we still have today. It is one that has worked fairly well. I don't want people out there to think this is something that has a bunch of projects and a bunch of earmarks in it. It doesn't. This is something we spent 2 or 3 years intensively working on prior to its passage in 2005. Now we want to make these corrections to make sure the rest of the projects get done.

Here is the dilemma we have right now. We have a lot of projects—nearly enough but a lot of projects—that we authorized in 2005. If we don't have technical corrections, we are up against the wall now where we can't get anything more done, and we have given our word to people all throughout the country that we are going to improve bridges, we are going to try to save lives, and it has virtually stopped

because we have certain corrections that need to be made.

What we dealt with on that very large, what was it, \$286 billion over the period of 2005 through 2009, which is a lot of money, that doesn't do anything more—it doesn't even maintain what we already have. We don't even have a lot of new stuff in there. There is not a person in America who doesn't know we have a crisis. Some of these Members of this committee or this body, if you don't think it is a crisis, call your wife at home, or your husband, and they will tell you it is a crisis. It is worse every year. It is not something that we can make a decision today and all come to our good senses and get it done and it will be done tomorrow. It is a long lead time. It is a complicated process. But it is one of the things that has worked well.

I know there are a lot of people who want to satisfy some constituency that says you are spending too much money. You tell that constituency to go out and drive in the traffic for a while and see what kind of serious problems we have.

I have often said—and I have followed this myself—we all in this body have different priorities. That is what makes it a representative body. I have often said we need to, No. 1, take care of our Nation's security, have a military that can defend our country; No. 2, take care of the infrastructure we have and move forward with that; and No. 3, which is kind of a pet thing with me, and I think everyone who has previously been a mayor of a major city—unfunded mandates is another area that I feel this governing body should be paying attention to. But we have a bill. We have a bill that is working now. We are improving highways. We are adding lanes. But we have come to a stop. I think anyone who tries to keep this from becoming a reality doesn't want to address a serious problem we are faced with.

No one else is going to do it for us. The States can't do it. It has to be done by the Federal Government. We passed a bill. We are going to be coming up against another bill next year when this runs out in 2009. We are going to be reauthorizing for the next 5 years or 7 years or maybe even longer. But this has to be done and we need to get it done now.

We do have several amendments. I understand the concern of the Senator from South Carolina who has made his statements, and he has done so very eloquently. Frankly, I agree with almost everything he says. The only thing I disagree with is that this bill isn't creating new projects, isn't spending new money. We need, in his State as well as my State and in all 50 States, to get on with this. I hope people realize these are not new projects; it is not an increase in spending. It doesn't spend at all; it is an authorization bill.

Another amendment that is going to be pending is that of my good friend

Senator BOND from Missouri. He has a special concern, and I encourage him to come down to the floor to bring it up, debate it, and let's vote on it and get that done. Then my junior Senator has a concern over something that is a process that happened—it didn't even happen here, but it happened in the other body. Now, I agree with him, it is something that was egregious and needs to be investigated. I think it should be. I think there are a lot of different ways of doing it. I want to join hands with him and get this done.

So we, to my knowledge, only have those three things that are out there that are holding this up. I would invite those three authors to come down. I think while we are not going to be having votes tonight, we can start debating these tonight, and tomorrow morning we could actually vote on some of these. But I agree with the chairman of the committee, Senator BOXER, and the majority and the minority leaders in this body that we need to get it done. We are not going to get it done until we get the amendments down here, debate them, and decide what is the will of this body. That is what we are supposed to be doing for a living around here. That is what happens.

I yield the floor and 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. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, earlier this month, President Bush sent up another trade agreement to the House of Representatives. This agreement is a bilateral trade agreement with Colombia. He calls it a "free trade agreement," a term we use around here—I am not sure why, except that it sounds good, because these trade agreements generally are—I don't have it in front of me, but it was too thick to bind in its original printing. It is about seven or eight hundred pages.

NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement—which the Presiding Officer opposed 15 years ago, as I did—was even longer than that. The way they sell these agreements is they say we are eliminating the tariffs on the trade relationship between—in this case it is Colombia, and Colombia still

has tariffs on American goods. We have eliminated tariffs on Colombian goods. If we were to pass a real free trade agreement, it would be three, four, five, six pages long and eliminate the tariff schedule, making a real free trade agreement.

These are not free trade agreements the President sends us, nor are they free trade agreements that Presidents in the past sent. They are hundreds and hundreds of pages of protectionism, pages outlining protections for the drug companies, protections for the energy companies, for financial services companies, banks and others, and protections for the pharmaceutical industry. That is what these supposed free trade agreements are.

It is interesting that those of us who oppose these "free trade agreements" because they don't protect our communities, frankly, are called "protectionists." If we are going to write these agreements and build in protections for the drug companies, the oil industry, and the other energy companies, the financial services companies, the banks, and the insurance companies, we also should build in protections for our workers in New Jersey and in Ohio, protections for our communities in Lima, and Mansfield, and Tiffin, OH, protections for food safety, and build in protections for consumer product safety.

But that is not what they do. What is most curious about these agreements that the President has sent up—in this case the most recent is Colombia—it reminds me of the old Einstein saying that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over again and expecting a different outcome.

We have seen, in almost 15-plus years in the House of Representatives, and now in the Senate—and it is roughly the same period of the Presiding Officer—we have seen our trade deficit go from \$38 billion in 1992, to in excess of \$800 billion last year. It is hard to know exactly what that means. A \$38 billion deficit—that means we buy \$38 billion more in this country than we sell to other countries. It is \$800 billion more that we buy in this country than we sell to other countries. That is a huge amount of dollars, obviously.

That \$800 billion—it was boiled down by the first President Bush, who said that a billion dollar trade surplus, or deficit, translated into 13,000 jobs. So if you have a trade surplus—in other words, if you are selling more than you are buying as a nation, a billion dollars, according to President Bush the first, would add up to about 13,000 new jobs—net gain of jobs in your country. But if you have \$1 billion deficit, it means it is a 13,000 net job loss in your country. We have not a billion dollar trade deficit but an \$800 billion one. Do the math. What does that mean in lost jobs? It means an awful lot of lost manufacturing jobs in my State, from Cleveland, to Dayton, to Lima, to Canton, to Kent, to Ravenna, to all over

our State. It means a lot of other lost jobs, not just manufacturing jobs. When American Standard shuts down in Tiffin, and when a company shuts down in Bucyrus, or in Ashland, it means fewer firefighters, fewer schoolteachers, fewer restaurant workers, fewer realtors, and fewer people who serve those jobs—those people who had the manufacturing jobs.

So it is pretty clear that the trade agreements, in addition to other damage they have done, clearly—when you have a trade deficit that goes from \$38 billion to \$800 billion in a decade and a half, they have done significant damage to our country and, most importantly, to our communities and our families.

I will close on something specifically unique to the Colombia trade agreement. We know that in Colombia they have had a significant number of murders committed against union activists. I heard a Member of the House say today there were more union activists—organizing union leaders—murdered in Colombia than anywhere in the rest of the world combined.

Although President Uribe of Colombia says union violence has come down and his spokespeople in this body say the same, the fact is that union murders, deaths of union activists in the first 3 months of 2008 are almost twice what they were in 2007. Adding insult to injury, we have seen fewer and fewer convictions. Only about 3 percent of these murders have resulted in convictions of the people who have been guilty of the murders. To add even further insult to this whole issue, the American Government, the State Department has said the paramilitary vigilantes who are allied often with the Uribe Government who have killed the union activists are classified by our State Department as terrorists. We, in essence, are supporting the Uribe Government that is allied with paramilitary vigilantes who are called terrorists by our own Government.

I don't quite see why we would want to reward that Government. I want President Uribe to succeed. I think he has done decent works. But I don't think we should reward him with a trade agreement and lose the leverage we have to try to get the activist murder rate down and also so that the people have the opportunity to join unions in Colombia. Fewer than 5 percent of the Colombian workforce is unionized. That is the lowest or second lowest in the Western Hemisphere.

They are not doing what they need to do to bring working families into the middle class, as we have seen in our country. The reason we have a prosperous Zanesville and a prosperous Springfield, OH, in part is because of people's ability to join a union and bargain collectively for better wages, health care, and pensions.

In the country of Colombia, they do not have those opportunities. For us to put the imprimatur of the U.S. on a free-trade agreement for that social

structure and government to me makes little sense.

The House of Representatives delayed the bill for several months. If it gets to this body, I am hopeful Members will do the right thing and say to President Bush: It is not time to do a trade agreement. This trade policy in our country has failed. It is not working for our country, it is not working for our national security, it is not working for our communities, it is not working for our families, and it is not working to build the middle class in this society the way we should.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE W. DUPNIK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's finest, Clarence W. Dupnik, Sheriff of Pima County, AZ, who celebrates 50 years of law enforcement service to his community this year.

Clarence Dupnik is known as a man of action, integrity, and innovation. These skills have been invaluable to his 50 years of service to Arizona, and the Nation.

Sheriff Dupnik began his career in law enforcement in 1958 as a patrol officer with the city of Tucson Police Department, TPD. He held various positions within the Tucson Police Department, rising to major in charge of field operations by the time he retired from the TPD in January 1977. From there, he was appointed chief deputy sheriff of Pima County Sheriff's Department, and later appointed Pima County Sheriff in 1980.

Since 1980, Clarence Dupnik has been elected to seven consecutive terms of office as Pima County Sheriff, a position in which he remains today. Clarence Dupnik's many years of service to Pima County represent a remarkable achievement and a great responsibility.

During his tenure as sheriff, the population of Pima County has nearly doubled in size. Today it claims almost 400,000 residents, making it the second-highest populated county in Arizona. In addition, Pima County shares 123 miles of border with the nation of Mexico. These characteristics have brought on special challenges, which Sheriff Dupnik met head on, with an admirable commitment to crime reduction.

Over the last three decades, Sheriff Dupnik has been instrumental to the reduction of the per capita crime rate in Pima County. He has fought criminal enterprises, drug trafficking organizations, and gangs. He also worked with former U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona to improve law enforcement capabilities by integrating special weapons and tactics with emergency medical assistance. Additionally, he had the foresight to deploy 350 new mobile data computers in all Sheriff's patrol vehicles—both patrol and unmarked—before most other departments in Arizona. Sheriff Dupnik also participated in the Joint Terrorism Task Force and served on the Executive Committee of the FBI.