

Mr. REID. I thank the majority leader.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

IRAQ

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I will spend a few minutes talking about Iraq this afternoon. I start with my conclusion and then go into the body of my remarks after I state what that conclusion is.

The administration's position that we will stay as long as the Iraqis need us to is too open-ended and sends the wrong message to Iraqis that their failure to make the necessary political compromises will not affect how long we stay, and it makes it less likely that those compromises will be reached.

Our military commanders have repeatedly stated there is no purely military solution in Iraq and that a political settlement is a necessary element for success. In view of that, I believe, unless the Iraqis achieve a political settlement by the end of this year, we must consider a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq, and we must make that point clearly to the Iraqis now while they are in the process of deciding whether to come together through consensus.

The Iraqi National Assembly approved a draft Constitution on August 28, despite objections from the Sunni Arabs over provisions relating to federalism that most Sunnis believe will disadvantage the areas of Sunni concentration. Those provisions essentially would enable the Kurds in the North and the Shiites in the South to establish autonomous regions in which most of the country's oil reserves are located. Sunni Arab voters who chose to boycott the last election, and thus were underrepresented in the National Assembly and on the constitutional drafting committee, registered in large numbers for the referendum on the Constitution scheduled for October 15, with the apparent objective of rejecting the existing draft. If two-thirds of the voters in 3 or more of Iraq's 18 provinces vote no, the Constitution will be rejected, and the elections scheduled for December will elect a new National Assembly, which will start the constitutional drafting process anew.

Additionally, there are reports that firebrand Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr will exhort his followers to reject the Constitution because he favors a unified Iraq, and he sees the existing draft leading to the dissolution of Iraq as a single State. Muqtada al-Sadr has a huge following in Baghdad, which lacks

oil resources, and thus is disadvantaged in a manner similar to the predominantly Sunni Arab provinces.

Meanwhile, the administration is urging the American people to "stay the course." That is a bumper sticker slogan not a strategy.

Secretary Rice, among others, has stated we will be in Iraq as long as we are needed, adding no incentive, therefore, to Iraqis to reach a political settlement. An open-ended commitment to keep our troops in Iraq, even in the absence of a political settlement by the Iraqis, flies in the face of our military commander's assessment that there can be no military success in the absence of an Iraqi political coming together.

U.S. forces, particularly the U.S. Army, are stretched thin, despite the unprecedented use of a large segment of our National Guard in Iraq. Their lengthy and repeated deployments mean that much of a unit's time is devoted to recovery from a previous deployment and preparation for the next one, thus leaving little time for training to develop war-fighting capabilities or sustaining readiness for other contingencies. These actions, in turn, mean less time at home for soldiers with their families and lower morale, which threatens recruiting and retention.

The level of participation of the Armed Forces of other countries has been disappointing, leaving the United States to bear most of the burden. The absence of forces from Muslim countries is deeply disappointing, since the outcome in Iraq has effects throughout the world and also impacts the future direction of Islam. While it would likely be unwise for Iraq's neighbors to supply any forces, the failure of the Arab states to express their condolences over the recent stampede, in which almost 1,000 Iraqis were killed, was noted angrily by Iraq's President and Prime Minister, as was the lack of Arab diplomatic representation in Baghdad.

The administration should take advantage of the presence of so many national leaders at the United Nations later this week to press nations with substantial Muslim populations, other than those neighboring Iraq, to send forces to Iraq. The President should also make clear to the Iraqi leaders that we expect them to extend invitations to such nations.

Speaking as a Senator, I delivered that message to President Talabani this afternoon in Senator FRIST's office. It is a message that I delivered on a number of occasions and directly in the past to Iraqi's leaders in Iraq.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad wrote in the Washington Post that one of the two standards to evaluate the Iraqi Constitution is "its potential to be a national compact that brings Iraqis together and undermines the insurgency."

He went on to say:

If Iraqi voters ratify the draft overwhelmingly, it becomes a national compact. If they

reject the draft, the next Assembly will negotiate anew.

He continues:

Under all scenarios, the United States will continue to encourage Iraqi leaders and communities to come together.

But Ambassador Khalilzad failed to mention that there is another scenario; namely, that the Sunni Arabs vote overwhelmingly against the Constitution but fall short of achieving a two-thirds negative vote in three provinces. In such a case, the violence and insurrection is more likely to continue and even civil war could result. Moreover, the Ambassador's words fail to display urgency that Iraqis reach a political settlement and unwisely suggest the U.S. forces may stay in Iraq indefinitely until legal consensus is achieved.

Despite the National Assembly's approval of the draft Constitution, the Iraqis continue to negotiate and make changes to the draft. For example, the Washington Post reported on September 6 that President Talabani said in his statement that he had agreed to changes that would ease concerns among Sunni Arabs that the wording of the draft loosened Iraqi ties to the Arab world. And Reuters reported on Sunday that the United Nations is unable to start printing Iraq's draft Constitution because the National Assembly had not yet certified the text and now has set Sunday, September 18, as the date by which any changes to the draft Constitution can still be met.

This week provides a critically important opportunity for the administration to make clear to the Iraqis that U.S. forces cannot be in Iraq indefinitely. We must make it clear to the Iraqis that they have a limited time to achieve a political settlement and that if they do not do so, one way or another, by the end of this year, we will consider a timetable for withdrawal of our forces.

Speaking as one Senator, again, I delivered that viewpoint to President Talabani in Senator FRIST's office earlier this afternoon.

We cannot write a constitution for Iraq, and we should not dictate the compromises they need to make to achieve a political settlement. But we do control whether our troops stay in Iraq and how long they stay.

The framework for agreement appears to be at hand. Some Shiite leaders reportedly have come to realize the existing draft of the constitution, which grants a high degree of control over natural resources to autonomous regions, would apply to water resources as well as to oil resources. That could negatively impact on the amount and quality of water available to predominantly Shiite areas. The Shiites are mainly located in the south, downstream of both the Kurds in the north and the Sunni Arabs in the center, who are able to dominate the flow of Iraq's two great rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates.

If the Shiites give up their ability to form an autonomous region or regions,

or agree to greater control by the central government over the country's natural resources, the Sunni Arabs might then be able to support a revised draft constitution which would be a critical step in achieving a political settlement.

The administration needs to move quickly. Both President Talabani and Prime Minister Jaafari—the leading Kurd and Shiite, respectively, in the transitional Iraqi Government—are in Washington this week and available for straight talk from the President and his Cabinet.

The United States has done and is doing more than our part in Iraq. It is up to the Iraqis now to step up to the political compromises which need to be made if Iraq has a realistic chance to defeat the insurgents and to become a nation.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THUNE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On August 9, 2005, two men were walking near 18th Street in New York, NY, when they were attacked by two other men. The apparent motivation for the attack were the victims sexual orientation. According to police, the two men made numerous antigay comments as they passed before hitting one of the gay men in the face.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that are born out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, commonly known as FLETC. Since its inception in 1970, FLETC has provided primary and advanced law enforcement training for at least 81 Federal agencies. It also serves as the project manager for the International Law Enforcement Academies. Over the past three and one-half decades, FLETC has grown from a fledgling organization into the world's premier law enforcement training center. For this, and for the countless lives that have been saved by the proud graduates of FLETC, I extend my heartfelt congratulations.

When FLETC was first conceived 35 years ago, the training of Federal law enforcement agencies suffered from varying levels of quality. The costs of providing high-quality training were far too high for any single agency to bear. It was in these prevailing circumstances that people started to talk about standardizing and consolidating training operations for law enforcement agencies with similar operational skills. That FLETC has managed to save taxpayers dollars by creating high-quality and cost-effective training programs is a tribute to its leaders, instructors, and graduates.

I have a personal connection to FLETC because there is a FLETC campus in my home State of New Mexico. The town of Artesia in the southeastern section of New Mexico has played a special role in the history of FLETC. First opened in 1989, FLETC-Artesia is one of three full-scale residential training facilities currently in operation. Although originally a small college campus, FLETC-Artesia is now a 2,540-acre site that includes grounded aircraft, large classrooms, drug and fingerprint labs, physical techniques facilities, outdoor firearms ranges, vehicle proficiency courses, and a number of dormitory buildings.

These and other training tools have proven valuable to multiple Federal law enforcement agencies. In the weeks and months following the devastating attacks on September 11, 2001, the training environment at FLETC was reoriented to address the American people's demands for greater in-flight security. The number of students being trained at FLETC-Artesia swelled from an average of 150 per day to 700 per day as part of this mobilization. Air marshals continue to be trained by FLETC and the Federal Flight Deck Officer training module was transferred to Artesia in the fall of 2003. The Border Patrol has also consolidated its training activities in New Mexico. It is therefore no stretch of the imagination to say that FLETC-Artesia is at the forefront in protecting our Nation's skies and borders.

Mr. President, I offer my congratulations to those who have worked at FLETC over the past 35 years. They

have done their country a great service. The fact that FLETC trainees continue to excel is a tribute to their hard work. I am proud to have played a role in establishing a FLETC campus in my home State and I look forward to working with FLETC in the future.

BARBARA DAVIS CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD DIABETES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I wish to honor an exceptional organization. The Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes provides care and support for over 5,000 children and young adults with type one diabetes, including their families. For their dedicated work and unrelenting commitment to excellence, I wish to honor the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes here today.

Since 1980, The Barbara Davis Center has grown to become the largest facility in the Nation dedicated to pediatric diabetes and is now located on the Fitzsimmons Campus of the University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Center in Aurora, Colorado. The staff at the Center has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of countless children throughout Colorado and the entire world who suffer from type one, or insulin-dependent diabetes. The Center's clinics received worldwide recognition for their care of those affected with pediatric diabetes, a chronic, life-threatening illness. In addition, the Center is a first-rate teaching and research facility on the forefront of the investigation into the cause, treatment, and elimination of diabetes.

The Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes is relentless in its efforts to treat children with diabetes, support their families, and find ways to prevent and ultimately cure this devastating disease. For more than a quarter of a century the Center has proudly served the children of Colorado, our Nation, and the world. Founder Barbara Davis and the staff at the Center have dedicated themselves to enhancing the lives of those affected by diabetes. They are true champions in the fight against childhood diabetes, and I am honored to recognize their work.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION INSTITUTE

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, tonight is the annual gala of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute to honor individuals from across the country that have helped promote the basic but crucial goal of ensuring that every child is safe, healthy and has a permanent home.

I am proud to be a member of this group, and I am proud of the leadership