

the day, and address amendments—we have to do so by unanimous consent—but address amendments on the lobbying reform bill.

The managers were about to have us vote on some other amendments which we would be able to vote on. It will take unanimous consent. We could bring them up one at a time if that is the case.

Without going into all the details of what happened, that is where we are today. The cloture motion now has been filed, and it does give us a road to completing this bipartisan bill.

I will be happy to yield to the Democratic leader for a comment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the one thing that I will do is work very hard over the next few hours to see if we can have the cloture vote tomorrow, sometime tomorrow. I will see if we can get that done. I think it would be to everyone's advantage if we could resolve this part of the situation we have on the floor.

I would say that the Leader and I have had many discussions during the day and in the weeks prior to this matter coming to the floor in an effort to move this lobbying reform bill along. I think we can get a lobby reform bill; it is now a question of when we will do that.

But in the morning, cooler heads will prevail, and we will see what we can do to move the country along on these things that need to be done.

HOLD ON LAMBRIGHT NOMINATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I am placing a hold on the nomination of James Lambright to serve as President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

I am placing this hold on Mr. Lambright's nomination as I have major concerns regarding the issuance of taxpayer-guaranteed credit insurance by the Export-Import Bank for an ethanol project in Trinidad and Tobago. Specifically, the approval of this credit insurance by the Export-Import Bank appeared to violate the Bank's authorizing statute.

Let me explain.

In March 2004, the Export-Import Bank approved the issuance of \$9.87 million in taxpayer-guaranteed credit insurance to help Angostura Holdings Limited, of Trinidad and Tobago, finance the construction of an ethanol dehydration plant in Trinidad. The purpose of this credit insurance was to enable Angostura to purchase equipment to be used to dehydrate up to 100 million gallons of Brazilian ethanol annually. Angostura would then reexport the resulting dehydrated ethanol to the United States duty-free under the current Caribbean Basin Initiative trade preference program.

But section 635(e) of the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute—the

Export-Import Bank Act of 1945—states that the bank is not to provide credit or financial guarantees to expand production of commodities for export to the United States if the resulting production capacity is expected to compete with U.S. production of the same commodity and that the extension of such credit will cause substantial injury to U.S. producers of the same commodity. The statute goes on to provide that “the extension of any credit or guarantee by the Bank will cause substantial injury if the amount of the capacity for production established, or the amount of the increase in such capacity expanded, by such credit or guarantee equals or exceeds 1 percent of United States production.”

As of 2004, when the credit guarantees for Angostura were approved, the total 100 million gallon capacity of the Angostura facility was nearly 4 percent of U.S. production. This amount clearly exceeded the 1-percent threshold for causing substantial injury to the U.S. ethanol industry as spelled out in the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute.

So it appeared to me that the approval of credit guarantees for Angostura by the Export-Import Bank violated the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute.

Moreover, as the amount financed by the Export-Import Bank was less than \$10 million, no detailed economic impact analysis was conducted by the bank. I note that the amount approved by the Export-Import Bank \$9.87 million was conveniently just below this \$10 million threshold amount.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, Congress asked the Export-Import Bank for an explanation of the credit guarantees for Angostura. Specifically, the 2005 act required the Export-Import Bank to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House containing an analysis of the economic impact on U.S. ethanol producers of the extension of credit and financial guarantees for the development of the ethanol dehydration plant in Trinidad and Tobago. Congress also required that this report determine whether such an extension would cause substantial injury to such producers, as defined in section 2(e)(4) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945.

In January of last year, the Export-Import Bank provided its report. In its report, the Export-Import Bank avoided the issue of whether its credit guarantees for Angostura caused substantial injury to U.S. producers, and thus whether the approval of these guarantees was in compliance with the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute. The Export-Import Bank avoided the issue by claiming that the Angostura plant will not “produce” dehydrated ethanol. Rather, the Export-Import Bank stated that this plant will merely “process” dehydrated ethanol by removing water from wet ethanol produced in Brazil, thus merely “adding value” to the wet ethanol from Brazil.

However, despite the semantics of the Export-Import Bank, the Angostura plant will clearly be producing dehydrated ethanol. This is common sense. An ethanol dehydration plant—of course—produces dehydrated ethanol.

Moreover, the Customs Service recognizes that ethanol dehydration plants in Caribbean Basin Initiative countries produce dehydrated ethanol.

While the Export-Import Bank currently does not have an inspector general, the conference report for the Foreign Operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006 directs the Export-Import Bank's inspector general—once appointed to look into this credit insurance approval. Specifically, the conference report provides that the inspector general shall provide a written analysis to the Finance Committee and the Committee on Appropriations, within 90 days of appointment, as to whether the loan guarantees provided to the ethanol dehydration plant in Trinidad and Tobago met the provisions of the Export-Import Bank's charter. The analysis shall include whether “value added” methodology is routinely used by the bank to determine whether a proposed loan guarantee or export credit meets the statutory test regarding the definition of substantial injury found in the bank's authorizing statute. The inspector general shall also make recommendations as to whether it is appropriate to use such methodology in making a determination of substantial injury.

As the Export-Import Bank currently does not have an inspector general, I am placing a hold on Mr. Lambright's nomination until such time that I receive assurances from him that, first, the Export-Import Bank will act quickly to appoint an inspector general, and second, that Mr. Lambert will see that the inspector general will indeed provide a written analysis on the credit insurance approval within 90 days of appointment.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate March 8, 2006, International Women's Day. It is an undeniable fact that as the world becomes more interconnected, societies which value women's rights and include them in the political, economic, and civic process have a greater chance of prospering and contributing to international peace and stability.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Iraq. We all know that in order for Iraq to succeed as a nation, women must play an integral role in the government and women's rights must be treated as fundamental human rights. While much work remains to be done in Iraq, I am pleased to see that women are playing a prominent and active role in the government.

As such, it is a great honor to not only commemorate, March 8, 2006, International Women's Day but also

welcome a distinguished guest, Dr. Jinan Jasim Ali Al Ubaidi, a newly elected member to Iraq's Council of Representatives, who will be my guest and accompany me throughout the day.

A member of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution party, Dr. Ubaidi is a graduate of Baghdad University and practiced medicine at Najaf Hospital prior to the fall of the Hussein regime.

Dr. Ubaidi and her female colleagues in the Council of Representatives are now confronting issues which will determine the future of women's rights in Iraq.

This is a critical juncture and one key question they face is. What will be the extent of sharia in Iraq and how will it affect women's rights in that country?

Article 14 of Iraq's Constitution states that "Iraqis are equal before the law without discrimination based on gender." Article 2 of the Constitution maintains that "no law that contradicts the established provisions of Islam may be established."

Some people believe that it will be difficult to reconcile the two articles and still provide women with fundamental rights in Iraq. I, for one, believe that Islam and women's rights can go hand in hand and there is an opportunity to advance these rights in a new Iraq.

While the women in the Iraqi National Assembly will do their part, the United States and the international community need to play a vital role in advancing the role of women in Iraq.

Specifically, we should continue to promote democracy related training programs, female education programs, and assist with judicial reform and Islamic jurisprudence training so that women will become part of the social, political, and economic fabric of Iraq.

Gains for women's rights have been made in other Muslim countries such as Indonesia and Morocco, and we should look to them as examples.

In Morocco, successful efforts to raise the marriage age for women from 15 to 18, abolish polygamy, and equalize the right to divorce have been made. In Indonesia, Musdah Mulia, the chief researcher at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, has sparked considerable debate within that country by calling for changes in the areas of wearing a hijab and marriage based on Islamic jurisprudence. Although such rules have not been enacted, further debate on the issue is a positive step.

A nongovernmental organization in Indonesia, known as the Indonesian Society for Pesantren and Community Development, has also been using Islamic jurisprudence to promote women's reproductive rights and family planning education within religious schools there. These are all progressive steps toward promoting women's rights in the Islamic world.

In the near future, an Iraqi government will be formed that will make important decisions on the role of women

and sharia. The United States must do everything within its power to ensure that women's rights are fully incorporated into every aspect of Iraqi life.

We must continue to support education and leadership initiatives, economic empowerment programs, and specifically judicial reform, all of which will seek to increase the role of women government and assist Iraq's transition to a stable and democratic state.

Let us also not forget about the women in Afghanistan. Under the Taliban regime, women were brutally oppressed and women's rights were virtually nonexistent.

Women in public were forced to cloak themselves head to toe while being accompanied by a male relative. If they failed to do so, they risked being beaten mercilessly.

Furthermore, most Afghan women were restricted by the Taliban from working, receiving an education, visiting doctors, or accepting humanitarian aid.

Now, women in Afghanistan have the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families. It is no longer illegal for women to work, and millions of Afghan girls now attend school.

The United States has provided grants to establish the Ministry of Women's Affairs, assisted Afghan nongovernmental organizations, created opportunities for income generation in the private sector, and supported opportunities for women in agriculture and rural environments.

The Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006, included a \$50 million earmark for programs directly addressing the needs of Afghan women and girls.

However, many challenges remain for women in Afghanistan.

Although women may legally work, many still face serious challenges to finding job opportunities. For them, it is extremely difficult to find jobs close to home, with tolerable hours, and reasonable pay.

Additionally, although education is currently on the rise, most Afghan women have had little or no formal job training, which prevents them from gaining meaningful employment.

Finally, women still face conservative attitudes about their political participation in many rural areas of the country.

The United States must not forget about these women. We must continue to advance women's rights in Afghanistan because if we do not, our tireless efforts there will have been in vain.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to stay the course and support additional assistance for education, health care, and democracy training for women and girls in Afghanistan during the years ahead.

There are a great many challenges that face women today, and there are a great many challenges that faced

women in the past. Issues such as the role of women in Iraq and Afghanistan are no less daunting than women's suffrage seemed in 1920. As such, there is cause for optimism on International Women's Day.

Yet we must remain vigilant in our fight for justice and gender equality around the world.

The United States must remain a leader by proactively addressing these women's issues. I am confident that if we tirelessly continue to fight for gender equality, we can find workable solutions to address the problems that women face around the world.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today is International Women's Day, a chance for us to reflect upon the status of women around the globe, recognize their achievements, and recommit ourselves to ensuring that women can fully realize the rights with which all humans are endowed.

There is much for women to celebrate this year. Women in Kuwait were granted the right to vote and run for office, while women in Afghanistan exercised their right to vote in November's elections. In Tanzania, and Burundi, among other countries, the number of women serving in elected office increased to record levels. In all parts of the world, women are seizing opportunities to weigh in with their governments on the issues of greatest importance to their lives. But there is still so much work to be done to help women achieve equal rights and equal protection.

The culture of corruption apparent in far too many countries has a disproportionate impact upon women. In Latin America, women have disappeared or been killed without proper criminal investigations. In other countries, women who have endured rape or sexual abuse experience further stigmatization and punishment, including forced detainment and death threats. All across the globe, women and girls are trafficked across borders, often with the knowledge of local officials who tolerate the presence of their captors. We need to devote more energy to making our communities safer for women, ensure that crimes against women are given fair and full consideration by law enforcement, and that bribery and cronyism do not dilute the rule of law.

Women, the caregivers in families and communities around the world, must also have the opportunity to seek and receive appropriate health care. More than 500,000 women each year die of largely preventable pregnancy-related complications, while millions more suffer injuries, like obstetric fistulas, for which they cannot get treatment. In many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where AIDS has had the greatest impact, the majority of young women still do not have adequate knowledge of the ways in which HIV is transmitted. Girls and women account for 70 percent of the world's hungry, and malnutrition in pregnant women

leads to deficiencies in their children's development. We need to recognize the way that gender inequality contributes to disease and address these disparities through increased education and outreach and equal access to medical treatment and support services.

As international trade transforms economies around the world, we must ensure that women have equal access to these opportunities. In one-third of the world, women are the breadwinners for their families. Female farmers account for 80 percent of the agricultural workforce in Africa, and 60 percent in Asia. Yet despite their contributions to the economy, women make up 60 percent of the world's working poor, struggling to survive on less than one dollar a day. They are too often placed in situations of informal employment—temporary or part-time positions that do not offer a formal salary or benefits. We must ensure that all girls and women have access to educational opportunities that can lead to employment at an adequate wage, and that women receive fair compensation for labor performed outside a traditional workplace setting.

It has been more than a decade since I traveled to Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women. This week, the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations is convening to evaluate the progress we have made in achieving the goals we set at that time. We must work to ensure that the commitments we made then become reality now. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress and counterparts in other governments to create a world in which every woman is treated with respect and dignity, every boy and girl is loved and cared for equally, and every family has the hope of a strong and stable future.

IRANIAN WOMEN

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on an issue that resonates with all Americans, especially today—a day when the entire world celebrates International Women's Day. It is important to raise the issue of the oppression of women, in hope that public awareness will change these practices and this prejudice.

I would like to specifically raise awareness of the plight of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Iran, women are considered to be worth a half of a man and have extremely limited rights. It is the policy of the Government of Iran to deny women the opportunities that men are afforded.

The current Iranian Government has rescinded laws that were implemented prior to the revolution regarding women's legal rights. This initiative against women's rights was justified by an edict that laws in conflict with Sharia Law had to be abolished. The edict resulted in a new set of restrictive laws for women.

Women in Iran are severely oppressed, and their ability to speak out

against current conditions is limited. While they can speak out, they face certain punishment for doing so. There are many examples of Iranian women, young and old, who have spoken out against the lack of opportunity for women in Iran. For example, Elham Afroutan is a 19-year-old Iranian journalist who was arrested a few months ago because of an op-ed she wrote in a newspaper. She is now imprisoned in Tehran, and it has been reported that she has been brutally raped and tortured. Elham's parents have only heard from her a couple of times, and the Iranian Government has refused to give any updates on her condition.

Also of importance is the case of Zahra Kazemi, the 54-year-old Iranian and Canadian journalist, who was arrested for photographing a demonstration outside Tehran's Evin prison. It is reported that while imprisoned, Zahra was tortured, raped, and later murdered. The Iranian Government later claimed that she committed suicide. The doctor who examined Zahra's body later determined that she died as a result of the beating and torture that she endured while imprisoned. After Zahra's family demanded an autopsy of her body, it was later discovered that the Iranian Government had injected Zahra's body with various chemicals so as to destroy her body and any evidence against her attackers.

This oppression of Iranian women, and all women around the world, must end. Never should a woman feel afraid to walk out of her home, speak up, or voice her opinion. Never should a woman have less of an opportunity than a man.

People around the world today, on International Women's Day, must unite behind one cause—equality, justice, and opportunity for all women.

THE FIVE-SEVEN PISTOL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Five-Seven handgun, manufactured by the Belgian firearms company FN Herstal, was reportedly designed to provide military and law enforcement personnel with a small, lightweight, and accurate pistol that was powerful enough to kill or seriously injure enemies wearing body armor. A January 2000 cover article in the popular American Handgunner magazine profiled the handgun and predicted that, for obvious reasons, "neither the gun nor the ammunition will ever be sold to civilians." Unfortunately, the American Handgunner article was wrong and FN Herstal made the Five-Seven pistol available to private buyers in 2004. These high-powered firearms clearly have no sporting purpose and pose a great threat to the lives of our law enforcement officers.

According to the FN Herstal website, the Five-Seven weighs less than 2 pounds fully loaded and measures only 8.2 inches in length, making it easily concealable. A statement which previously appeared on the website boast-

ed "Enemy personnel, even wearing body armor can be effectively engaged up to 200 meters. Kevlar helmets and vests as well as the CRISAT protection will be penetrated." This statement has since been removed.

Ballistics tests conducted by the American Handgunner for their January 2000 article provided evidence of the armor-piercing capabilities of the Five-Seven pistol. In the tests, ammunition fired by the Five-Seven successfully pierced level IIA Kevlar body armor and penetrated 6 inches into ballistics testing gelatin behind it. According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, level IIA Kevlar body armor is the kind commonly worn by law enforcement officers.

The already lethal nature of the Five-Seven handgun was amplified when Congress failed to renew the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban, allowing it to expire on September 14, 2004. Among other things, Congress's inaction resulted in the legalization of previously banned high-capacity magazines, including the 20 round clip currently sold with the Five-Seven.

The law enforcement community is rightfully concerned about the Five-Seven's ability to kill law enforcement personnel, even while they are wearing protective body armor. Last year, a coalition of law enforcement groups including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives issued a warning to their members about the threat posed by Five-Seven handguns.

Bernard Thompson, director of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, warned regarding the Five-Seven:

No one is safe from a weapon like this. Police body armor won't offer protection if a criminal has this pistol.

In addition, the legislative director of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Steve Lenkhart, called the Five-Seven "an assault rifle that fits in your pocket."

In response to concerns raised by law enforcement officials and others, Senator LAUTENBERG introduced the Protect Law Enforcement Armor Act on March 3, 2005. Among other things, this legislation would prohibit the sale of the Five-Seven pistol and its ammunition to private buyers in the U.S. Unfortunately, despite the continuing threat posed by this high-powered pistol to our law enforcement officers, Senator LAUTENBERG's legislation has yet to receive any consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee in the year since it was introduced.

We should not ignore the concerns of our law enforcement officers with regard to the Five-Seven pistol and other military-style firearms. Congress should take up and pass commonsense legislation banning the sale of these dangerous weapons because of the threat they pose to the safety of our communities and those who work so hard each day to protect them.