

it is a shadow over the lives of so many millions—not just those here without documentation, but those who would reach out to help them, such as the priest who counsels the mother to stay with her children, even though she may not have the right legal documents or the person at the domestic violence shelter who tells a mother and her battered children to stay in this place; it is a safe and secure place for you; stay here until that abusive, drunken husband of yours is arrested and the kids are safe again.

Under the bill passed by the House of Representatives, the people I have described would be branded not just as criminals but as felons. That is an unfortunate approach and one that doesn't reflect the values of this country. That is an approach which would drive more people into the shadows.

The Democrats support a comprehensive approach, one that includes security and also includes a path to legalization—a tough, long path, with many requirements that some will not finish. But those who do finish will make a better America. We have to go beyond enforcement. We have a reasonable and realistic approach to address the undocumented who live among us. We would give them an opportunity, and that is the best America can offer to anybody. By giving them this opportunity, we encourage them to come forward and register and to be part of the legal rolls in America. That way, we know who is living here, which enhances our national security. This is also true to American values. It is rewarding immigrants who work hard and play by the rules.

We face extraordinary security challenges in America today. We have a war that now has claimed over 2,300 of our best and bravest—sons and daughters of families across America, from Illinois and every State in the union. Today, 138,000 American troops stand risking their lives for us in Iraq and another 20,000-plus in Afghanistan. We owe them not only our gratitude and our admiration, but we owe them a plan to come home.

When I take a look at the situation in Iraq, it deteriorates each day and moves inexorably toward a civil war, which we pray will never happen, and I wonder how this will end. For some of us who voted against the resolution which brought us into this war, we argued at the time that it is a lot easier to get into a war than to get out of one. We argued that we needed more allies to stand with us so that it would not be just American soldiers. We argued that more nations should be with us in this effort so we would not be subsidizing a war, which now costs us \$2 billion a week.

Unfortunately, this administration moved forward, anyway. They went into a war without enough troops, without enough body armor, without enough protection on the humvees, and without the necessary defensive equipment on helicopters. They sent the

troops into battle and, sadly, so many have not come home. Many have come home with broken and battered bodies.

We have an obligation now to say to the Iraqis: We have helped you. We have removed your dictator. We have given you a chance to govern yourself, given you a chance for free elections, and we have given you a chance for your future. But now it is your responsibility. Govern your own nation; bring it together and defend your own people.

This administration promised us for years that, given enough time, the Iraqi Army and the police force would replace our troops. How much longer must we wait? How much longer must we wait until these Iraqis will stand and fight for their own future and their own country? I will believe this administration has a plan that works when the first American soldier comes home, replaced by an Iraqi soldier standing guard there in his own country. We are still waiting for that day. I hope it will come soon.

When President Bush said last week that perhaps we will have to wait until we have another President, 2½ years from now, my heart sank. Two and a half more years of this? Two and a half more years of losing American lives and watching these soldiers come back with visible scars?

We have to do better than that. Real security in America means a real plan to bring this Iraqi war to an end. I urge this administration to work toward that day and toward that plan, on a bipartisan basis, and to work toward homeland security that makes certain we are safe.

The General Accounting Office reported yesterday there is the ability to bring across our border enough fissile material to make a dirty bomb, despite our border security. There is a lot more we need to do to make America safe, and a stronger America begins at home.

This administration needs to do more when it comes to port security—not turn it over to some foreign government to manage five major ports.

This administration needs to do more when it comes to security at our chemical plants and nuclear plants.

This administration needs to do more when it comes to protecting us and making sure our first responders have what they need. I was in Marion, IL, at the fire department meeting with Chief Rinella, talking about the cuts in the Bush budget that will reduce the funds available to that department and to police departments, which we will count on if we ever have a major challenge in the United States. Real security begins at home, with an administration committed to security.

I urge my colleagues to join, on a bipartisan basis, to restore the funds that were cut in the Bush budget.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak after Sen-

ator SANTORUM for approximately 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

IRAQ'S FIGHT FOR ITS FREEDOM

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I have to respond to my colleague from Illinois, who suggested that somehow the Iraqis are not standing up and fighting for the freedom of their country and the comment, "How much longer do we have to wait?"

Ask the Iraqi families of the men who were beheaded—30 of them most recently—whether they are waiting for the Iraqis to step forward and sacrifice for their country. Ask the Iraqis who are in the military who are dying today, sacrificing for the freedom of their country, whether they are waiting. The people of Iraq are stepping forward and fighting for their country. We are helping them do that. It is the clear intention of our policy in Iraq to hand over the responsibility, and it is happening.

I find it almost remarkable that here now, 3 years into this conflict, where we are trying to transform an entire society, that the level of patience for this very difficult process, given all the progress made and all the elections that have been held and the Constitution drafted—I think in all but four of the provinces, there is very little terrorist activity, or insurgent activity, or whatever you want to call it. There is a concentration in a few provinces where there are problems.

But I met with people from Mosul yesterday—elected officials—who came here and talked about the dramatic improvements that are going on in that area, and the lack of any kind of al-Qaida operations and terrorist operations in that area, saying that life is dramatically advancing. We don't hear talk about that. We hear talk about the problem spots, and that is legitimate. But the idea that the Iraqis are not fighting for their country, that they are not stepping forward—as we see day in and day out that they are conducting missions and they are eliminating the terrorist threat in Iraq—I think it is almost incredible. I don't know how you can read the news and suggest that the Iraqis are not stepping forward to defend their country and fight for their freedom.

Also, coming back to the issue of patience, I thank God sometimes that some of the elected officials who are here today were not around in 1777, 1778, and 1779. We would still be singing "God save the queen," not "hail to the chief." It took us 11 years to put a democracy together, in circumstances that I suggest were far less difficult, in a neighborhood that was far less problematic than the neighborhood Iraq happens to be situated in. So the idea that we have lost our patience in a

struggle against Islamic fascism, which is a real present danger to the future of the United States of America, to me, is almost unconscionable.

This is a struggle we are engaged in. This is a struggle for our time. It is one that I believe history will look back upon and suggest that we met the threat that would have fundamentally changed the future of the world, and we met it before it did so. We met it with strength, with determination, and we overcame the doubters, overcame those who would have rather cut and run. I am not for cutting and running when it comes to the future security of this country. I have patience because things that are difficult and meaningful take time. We have to give that time.

I suggest there are some things that we are finding out now. Another effort I have been working on in Iraq is the intelligence information we have been able to gather from the former regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. This has been a project that Congressman PETER HOEKSTRA, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, has been working on—and I have worked with him—to make sure these 48,000 boxes, containing roughly 2 million documents, are released to the American public and the world to determine what was the intelligence assessment and the activity level and, in particular, in Iraq with Saddam, and with his interaction with elements of al-Qaida or other terrorist organizations.

What we are finding is that some of the statements that have been made on the floor and statements that were made just as recently as March 19, 2006 by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Congressman JACK MURTHA, who said:

There was no terrorism in Iraq before we went there. None. There was no connection with al-Qaida. There was no connection with terrorism in Iraq itself.

Yet if we look at some of the documents that are being released by Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte—and, again, only a few hundred of the millions of documents have been released. As a caveat, while Congressman HOEKSTRA and I are excited about the fact that DNI decided to release these documents, the pace of the release is, let us say, unsatisfactory to this point.

We have, with the blogosphere, the Internet, the opportunity to put these documents out there and have almost instantaneously translated postings about what these documents contain.

During the time the Director of National Intelligence Negroponte has had these documents—this is 3 years ago—less than 2 percent of the documents have been translated. At this pace, my grandchildren may know what is in these documents.

We need to get these documents out. Mr. President, 600 over a little over a 2-week period is almost the same pace as translating with the people they had over in DNI Negroponte's shop. We need to get these documents out quicker. Why? Because if we look at

what is in these documents, there is important information in understanding the connection between Iraq and terrorist organizations and the threat we were facing, the potential threat we had talked about, which is the coordination between a country that had used chemical and biological weapons, was thought universally to have chemical and biological weapons, and terrorists who have expressed a direct desire to use those weapons and get access to them.

If we look at a report that was issued by the Pentagon Joint Forces Command translating and analyzing some of these documents, called the "Iraqi Perspectives," on page 54, they write: Beginning in 1994, the Fedayeen Saddam opened its own paramilitary training camps for volunteers—this is 9 years, by the way, before the Iraq war—graduating more than 7,200 "good men racing full with courage and enthusiasm" in the first year.

Mr. President, 7,200 in the first year, 1994.

Beginning in 1998, these camps began hosting "Arab volunteers from Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, 'the Gulf,' and Syria." Volunteers. I wonder why they would be volunteering to help Saddam. It is not clear, it says, from the available evidence where are all these non-Iraqi volunteers who were "sacrificing for the cause" went to ply their newfound skills. Before the summer of 2002, most volunteers went home upon the completion of training. They didn't stay in Iraq. They came for training from countries in the gulf regions, and they went home. Odd that they would be fighting for the cause which would, in that case, be Saddam, if they went home.

Before the summer of 2002, as I said, most volunteers went home upon completion of the training, but these camps were humming with frenzied activity in the months immediately prior to the war.

As late as January 2003, the volunteers participated in a special training event called the Heroes Attack.

Stephen Hayes, who deserves a tremendous amount of credit for his reporting on these documents in the Weekly Standard, has brought this issue to the forefront and has awakened Members of Congress, myself included, to the importance of discovering the content of these documents as well as some of the information contained in these documents.

He reminds us of the special significance of that training in 1998:

That is the same year that the U.N. weapons inspectors left Iraq for good; the same year a known al Qaeda operative visited Baghdad for 16 days in March; the same year the U.S. embassies were bombed in East Africa; the same year the U.S. bombed Baghdad in Operation Desert Fox; and, the same year Saddam wired \$150,000 to Jabir Salim, the former Iraqi Ambassador to the Czech Republic, and ordered him to recruit Islamic radicals to blow up the headquarters of Radio Free Europe.

What we have here is, again, information that I believe is vitally important

for the American public to see. I encourage Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte to step up the pace. Congressman HOEKSTRA and I have introduced legislation which would require just that: it would require the release of these documents and provides a way to do so.

We introduced this legislation prior to the decision to release these documents, but, again, I just make the point that the pace with which these documents are being released is inadequate. We need to continue to step that up, allow this information to get out for people to see, pro and con—all the information that is available to us. These are old documents. They are at least 3 years old; in some cases much more than that. The classified nature is specious, at best. We want to protect names, obviously, if there are reasons to protect certain names because of potential fallout from having their names released. If there are recipes for chemical weapons, fine. But the bottom line is most of this information should be released, can be released, and is not being released.

I assure my colleagues—and I think I can speak for Congressman HOEKSTRA in this regard—we will stay on this issue, and we will make sure all of this information is made available to the American public so we have a better understanding of what the situation was in Iraq prior to the war.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, let me begin by congratulating members on both sides of the aisle on the Judiciary Committee for the fine work they did yesterday on the immigration bill. My expectation is that it will be coming to the floor soon.

I wish to echo some of the remarks that were made by my senior colleague from Illinois, Senator DICK DURBIN. I think everybody in this Chamber should be interested in a comprehensive immigration reform bill, one that takes seriously the security of our borders, one that takes seriously enforcing the hiring practices of employers, but also one that makes sure we are providing a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million to 12 million undocumented workers who are making enormous contributions to this country.

The bill that came out of the Judiciary Committee last night strikes the right balance. I believe it is a bill that is worthy of support on both sides of the aisle, and I am looking forward to participating in the debate on what I think will be one of the most important issues we face in the Senate.

LOBBYING REFORM

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I come to the Chamber today to address the ethics bill that has been pending before