

reasonable time for debate and amendment where we don't have to be starting and stopping and starting and stopping like we had to do over the last several years. Both of them are working very hard in that regard. It is a high priority.

I agree with the Democratic leader. We want to address it as soon as possible. The supplemental bill is in committee now. I have met with leadership involved in that bill, in terms of the managers on Thursday night and with the House as well. I was advised to let them work hard and aggressively over these last what has now been 3 or 4 days, and I will get a report back later today.

I, too, have been both advised and called by a number of people, both from the Department of Defense, our military, and it is clear that this money is needed. We need to work together to accomplish that this week. That is my intention.

After I talk to our conferees later today, I can get back in terms of whether that is going to be possible, but we are working very hard.

Mr. President, I see the Senator from Iowa. I want to make a statement. If the Senator from Iowa would allow me to suggest the absence of a quorum so I can speak to the leader, and I will be back and talk, it shouldn't be too long.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN LUKAC AND
CORPORAL WILLIAM SALAZAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I just finished a meeting in my office. It was emotional, to say the least. Two mothers—both mothers of Marine Corps men—came to my office to tell me about their boys who were killed in Iraq. I asked each of them to tell me about their sons.

Helena Lukac, of Hungarian ancestry, a beautiful woman, spoke with an accent telling me about her boy. He had better than a 4-point grade average at Durango High School. He loved math and science. He wanted to be an FBI agent or a CIA operative.

He told his mom: I am not sure I can do that because we came from a Communist country. I am not sure they would let me do that.

He joined the Marine Corps when he was 18, and at 19 years old he was killed.

Gloria Salazar's son was 23 when he was killed. He wanted to be in the Marine Corps from the time he was little, but at the first attempt he couldn't pass the physical. But he worked on his

deficiencies and came back and joined the Marine Corps. She was very proud of him. She showed me a picture of his arrival in Iraq with his camera that he used which was part of his job in Iraq.

The mothers told the same story. They knew when their sons had been killed.

Ms. Salazar was shopping in a mall, and that afternoon her son's picture kept falling out of her purse. She was so troubled she went home, and during the day she went to sleep, which was unusual. The time was assessed thereafter. She slept from the time he was injured until the time he died. The same thing happened to Helena Lukac. She was at work. She described her feeling as "a nut with nothing inside it." She felt empty.

I expressed to them my sorrow and sympathy and the appreciation of a grateful nation for these two young men having given their lives. It was a very emotional experience to hear the mothers talk about PFC John Lukac killed in Anbar Province and CPL William Salazar in Karabilah, Iraq.

FORMATION OF IRAQI GOVERNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, like most Americans, I welcomed the news over the weekend that the Iraqi political leaders had created parts of a new government. It is certainly a useful step toward the kind of Iraq we all want to see.

Like most Americans, I hope this new government will be able to bring security and order to a country wracked by insurgency, extremist attacks, and sectarian strife. We know more work needs to be done, both with forming this government and with fashioning a secure and stable Iraq. Three of the most important security ministers are still unnamed. That is hard to comprehend. We have been waiting and waiting for a cabinet to be formed, but is it really a cabinet? As unbelievable as it may seem to many, there is even talk of disgraced Ahmed Chalabi filling one of those security posts. That is hard to comprehend, but that is what the news accounts indicate.

I wonder how much longer this administration will insist that the burden of securing Iraq continue to fall squarely on the backs of our heroic U.S. troops, troops such as John Lukac and William Salazar. Secretary Rumsfeld was asked the question in Senate hearings last week. It turned out to be a question he could not answer. This past weekend, when he was asked about the possible redeployment of U.S. forces in Iraq coming home, going someplace else, Secretary Rice said that it depends on the outcome of discussions with the Iraqi Government. Apparently, Secretary Rice believes Iraqi leaders should decide the fate of our troops.

We are almost at the midpoint of 2006, the year a bipartisan majority in

Congress said must be a year of significant transition. That is the law of the land. It passed on a bipartisan vote during the Defense authorization bill. An amendment was offered and passed on a bipartisan basis saying that the year 2006 must be a year of significant transition in Iraq, with Iraqis assuming responsibility for governing and securing their own country.

Unfortunately, there appears to be little evidence of this transition. In fact, we learned on Friday that there will be an increase in U.S. troops to deal with the recent surge in violence. But none of us should be surprised that this administration in this instance is not following the law. It hasn't on many other occasions.

April was the deadliest month of the year for coalition troops. If the current rate of violence is sustained, May will surpass April. The situation is similar for Iraq's security personnel. More Iraq military and police were killed in April than any time in the previous 6 months.

Economically, the trends are no better. Oil production is still about 400,000 barrels per day, less than it was prior to the war. Available electricity in Baghdad dropped from 16 hours per day prior to the war to its current average of 4 hours per day. Clean water is below prewar levels, and because of mismanagement and violence, only 49 of the 136 U.S. funded projects in the water sector will be completed. The rest have been abandoned. All of these factors reduce Iraq's support for our activities there and fuel anti-American sentiment and insurgent activity.

While we all should welcome this partially formed new government, we recall other political milestones that were achieved and quickly swallowed by more violence. For example, since the December election, 325 coalition troops have been killed.

In order to ensure the milestone produces a different, more lasting result, Iraqis, working with the Bush administration, must address outstanding issues surrounding their Constitution. They must form a police force and diffuse the sectarian conflicts which have left their country on the brink of civil war, if not in a civil war.

Let's not forget that while the President and his team have chosen to focus this Nation's attention on Iraq, we see resurgent Taliban activity in Afghanistan. Iran and North Korea are thumbing their noses at the international community, and there has been a surge in terror attacks across the globe. Also, the mastermind of the deadly attacks on this Nation, Osama bin Laden, remains at large, while his al-Qaida network has morphed into a global franchise operation.

This is a time of great challenge for our Nation and for the Iraqis. Great challenges require strong leadership. Today's speech by the President was yet another missed opportunity to provide that leadership. We heard little about his plan to engage Iraq's neighbors in finding a regional solution to

Iraq's problems. We heard little about his diplomatic efforts to end the sectarian strife. We heard little about his thoughts on how to put Iraq's reconstruction back on track. We heard little of what he is doing to counter extreme ideology making such dangerous inroads in Iraq and around the world.

Instead of kicking the can down the road and letting future Presidents find our way out of Iraq, as we have been told by Secretary Rice and the President himself will happen, it is time for the President to lay out the comprehensive strategy that our troops, our families, and the American people have been waiting for. They have been waiting a long time.

The Nation should no longer have to guess what is on the President's mind and grapple for some insight on what "condition based" withdrawal actually means, a phrase the Defense Secretary does not even understand. We should all understand, a full-page ad in major newspapers around the country, paid for by current CEOs, says Secretary Rumsfeld should go. These are CEOs of some of the major companies in America. "Condition based withdrawal" is a phrase the Defense Secretary does not understand. It is time for a clear plan that is as good as the men and women who serve our Nation each day. It is time for the Iraqi people to take control of their own country, their own affairs, and long past time for this administration to come up with a plan that places the burden of securing Iraq forces on Iraq itself. The burden of securing Iraq should be on Iraqis, not the United States. We have done a lot. Even though the news over the weekend creating part of the new government is a step forward, we still have a long way to go.

I apologize to my friend from Iowa for taking as much time as I did. I appreciate very much his courtesy, as usual.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2006

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2611, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2611) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

Pending:

Ensign/Graham modified amendment No. 4076, to authorize the use of the National Guard to secure the southern border of the United States.

Chambliss/Isakson amendment No. 4009, to modify the wage requirements for employers seeking to hire H-2A and blue card agricultural workers.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I understand the time is now reserved for the Senator from New Mexico to speak on the pending matter; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator may proceed.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about border security and the immigration reform bill. I have some very strong views on this issue because my home State shares its southern border with Mexico. Every day I hear stories about the problems of lax border security, a cause for concern among my constituents. They tell me directly the problems this causes. I am convinced we must do more to secure our borders than we have been doing. However, I am very pleased we are making headway. I hope, in the not too distant future, the American people will see the fruits of that headway. I hope I can explain in my time allotted how we are going to do more and what we are doing.

Border security and immigration enforcement should be top priorities in our debate this week. Whether they are top priorities will influence my vote on any border and immigration package considered in the Senate.

The first step to secure our border is more border security funding. I believe Senator JUDD GREGG, as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, understands this. Sometimes it has been difficult to let the American people hear what is going on, what he is doing in his subcommittee, what the Senate is doing when it follows his lead, and what happens when we finish work with the House on the bills that start out in his committee.

He helped us provide \$635 million for border security in fiscal year 2005 in an emergency supplemental appropriations bill. With his efforts, we provided more than \$9 billion for border security and immigration enforcement in the fiscal year 2006 Homeland Security appropriations bill. He worked to include \$1.9 billion for border security in the Senate fiscal year 2006 emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Add that up, and one can understand that Congress is finally responding to the gigantic needs of making our international borders secure.

The fiscal year 2006 emergency supplemental funding I have alluded to includes such items as \$100 million for sensors and surveillance technology; \$120 million for new Border Patrol stations, checkpoints, and vehicle barriers; \$80 million for Border Patrol vehicles; and \$790 million for border security helicopters and other air assets. Believe it or not, until recently, while we have talked a great deal about the Border Patrol and what they must do, they had helicopters from the Vietnam era. We have finally decided to buy them a new fleet of helicopters. After all these years of talking, we are finally doing something. Also, we included \$50 million for an upgraded CBP communications system.

Many Americans must be wondering, what have we been doing all these years in all these appropriations bills when we have talked so much? The truth is, we have done little. But we are doing more now.

Second, we need more border security provisions as part of border security and immigration reform legislation. Many security provisions in the current border and immigration bill are good, but they are not enough. I have filed three amendments to the bill which I will discuss shortly. I understand and think once Senators have heard these amendments and the managers have had a chance to review them, they may be accepted.

Lastly, we should try to address what to do with the millions of undocumented workers in America today. In March, I joined with a bipartisan group of Senators to support what has been called the Hagel-Martinez compromise. I supported the compromise in hopes that it would allow a border security and immigration bill to move forward. I also supported it because, as I understand the bill, anyone who came to the United States illegally after January 7 of 2004 receives no special treatment; that is, those hundreds of thousands of people who have been running to the border or who have been taken to the border, who have purchased their way to the border in the last few months, will receive no special treatment. It is my understanding these individuals—that is, post-January 7, 2004 illegal entrants—would be subject to removal and deportation under existing immigration laws. The record needs to clearly reflect that.

That means one group of people that Americans are wondering about will not receive any special privileges under this bill. They are sort of the Johnny-come-latelies who have run to the border thinking if they can get here quick enough they will be included in our immigration reform efforts. But it is my understanding that these individuals would be subject to removal and deportation under existing immigration law. I repeat that because I believe a number of Senators, on this side of the aisle at least, are indicating their support for this bill because they believe that is in the bill.

As the most senior Senator representing a southwest border State, I would like to now discuss the amendments I have filed, which I believe make eminent sense and should be accepted by the Senate.

The first is an amendment regarding Mexican cooperation. This amendment will require the Secretary of State to cooperate with Mexico to improve border security and to reduce border crime. The amendment is the result of a lot of hard work and is cosponsored by the distinguished Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, who is very familiar with the border problems and the problems with Mexico.

I would like to read that amendment because a reading of it does more than