

I mention that only because we are going to be addressing the supplemental bill.

As many people saw on the news last night, agreement was reached on the limit and content of the supplemental spending bill which we have been working on for well over 2 months. What we will talk about next week but what was demonstrated and what was released by the conference last night is that we are on the right track today. The level and the substance of that bill does adhere to our calls for a conference report that limited its total amount to the President's request for true emergency spending—no fat, no excessive spending. Those criteria have been met. It focuses resources on important priorities, priorities such as funding border security, which we spent well over a month on this floor talking about, on conducting the war on terror, and aiding hurricane recovery—all while exercising tight fiscal restraint and responsibility.

Also of note, the bill contains a fiscally prudent spending level for this year's regular appropriations bills. This bill sets a discretionary spending level at the President's request of \$873 billion—another very important point of maintaining fiscal discipline.

I applaud the leadership of Senator COCHRAN and Congressman LEWIS in the House to control Federal spending and to ensure effective and appropriate Government use of taxpayer dollars so that our deficit can continue to decline and our economy can continue to grow and prosper.

This adherence to keeping spending low, coupled with our Republican tax policy, has ushered in record economic growth: 5.3 million jobs have been created over the last 3 years; unemployment is down to 4.6, 4.7 percent, lower than the average of the 1990s, lower than the average of the 1970s—again, a huge success.

There is a lot more we have to do, but this supplemental bill is an important step, following through on Republican principles of fiscal restraint.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from Montana is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the events of the past week. We have received word that the leading terrorist in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was the mastermind of countless brutal attacks and taking lives of members of the U.S. Armed Forces and thousands of innocent Iraqis, was killed. This has been a long time coming. I commend those who worked tirelessly over the past year to finally see the fruits of their labors. Their dedication has saved countless lives. But that does not mean the war on terror is over. We still have a lot of work to do. We know the terrorists never give up. The greatest weapon they have is, of course, fear.

Last weekend, we also heard of a terrorist plot uncovered in Canada. Fortunately, those behind that plot were arrested before they could carry out their plans to murder the Canadian Prime Minister.

We are getting better at our intelligence. We are stopping these attacks. Of course, this will continue to be our mission, and for the people who are in the business of short-circuiting these plots, their job may never end. Terrorists will stop at nothing to incite fear in the minds and hearts of Americans and free-loving people all over the world.

We will fight as long as it takes to defeat them. Part of that fight is ensuring our security at home. My State of Montana borders Canada. In our part of the country, I like to say there is a lot of dirt between light bulbs. That makes it difficult to effectively patrol the border between my State and our friends to the north. Next time, will terrorists enter somewhere along that 550-mile border that my State shares with Canada? What makes it even more difficult is we are used to going back and forth between my State and Canada. We have farmers who farm on both sides of the border. They own farms in Canada, and they also own farms in Montana. Of course, we like the freedom of that movement.

The arrests last weekend have proven that illegal activity happens on our northern border, just like the problems we have on our southern border. I have said many times during the discussion of the immigration bill that we must know who is coming in this country and what for, and we also cannot have any credibility with the American people until we secure the border.

The Senate recently passed a massive immigration bill. There were a number of border security measures in the legislation—recommendations for a security fence, using the National Guard as backup and technical support, and other features. There were also provisions to enhance the security of our northern border, although I think even those could be stronger.

Most notably, however, this legislation did something else with which the American people do not agree: this legislation gave a pathway to citizenship for millions of illegal aliens. For this reason, I simply could not support the bill. Not only is it bad policy, but it sends the message that entering this country illegally is somehow OK.

Folks in my State have said: No amnesty for illegal aliens. They have been saying that until they are blue in the face. They feel strongly about it, so strongly that I received bricks in the mail with big letters on them: Secure the border and build the wall. I am not a big fan of walls. They have never had a history of success. But nonetheless, it sends a strong message on the things we should be doing.

It is a plain fact that illegal activity happens every day on our borders. We are in a great project in the State of

Montana called the Montana Meth Project. We are finding out that meth houses have been shut down. Law enforcement has done their job in our State. What we are finding now is meth coming in from outside our borders. Crystal meth is one of the worst fights we have in our State. Other criminal activities pose a threat to the safety of local communities and to our national security as a whole. I know folks in my State have seen this happen firsthand.

Up on the hi-line, border agents in Havre, MT, have arrested illegal immigrants from as many as 35 different countries. Many of these illegal immigrants are found hiding on trains as they pass through Havre and several other towns on the hi-line of Montana. In February, a fugitive thought to be armed and dangerous led the Montana Highway Patrol on two high-speed chases near Kalispell, MT, before being apprehended. He was trying to escape to Canada. Last October, Border Patrol agents spotted a man driving in a stolen pickup toward the Canadian border outside of Cut Bank, MT. After a standoff, the man was shot by officers acting in self-defense.

I know my colleagues from States that share international borders, northern and southern, have stories like this. They can go on forever. We have illegal aliens still flooding into this country through our southern border every day and, yes, some through the northern border. It is not too much to ask for our law enforcement agencies to find, detain, and deport those who have broken the law. It is overwhelming.

It is amazing to me that we can so diligently pursue terrorists as dangerous and as murderous as al-Zarqawi in Iraq and be successful, yet we do not meet with the same success here in this country. When it comes to our own borders, our own immigration policies, mistakes continue to be made both on the ground and here in this Congress.

More importantly, when we allow illegal aliens to stay, what kind of a message does that send to the rest of the world about our immigration policy? If you come here illegally, just wait it out. That is the message we are sending now. We will give you amnesty eventually. It seems that 20 years from now, it will be amnesty once again for even more of those who would enter this country illegally. The 1986 immigration reform act didn't work. Basically, the bill that recently passed the Senate—not with my support—almost mirrors the 1986 act. What good is history if we don't learn the lesson?

As the House and Senate come together to conference on this legislation, I advise taking into account what the American people are telling us. They are telling us what they want, and they are very clear with the message. Just as we continue our efforts in Iraq and our fight in this war on terrorism abroad, we must also ensure a secure border and sound immigration policy at home. There is no way we can

skirt the issue. It burns in the hearts of everybody in my State. They are very clear about the message. You do first things first and second things second.

The first thing we have to do to gain any credibility with the American people is to secure the border, knowing what the cost will be and knowing the job that is ahead of us.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

WAR ON TERROR

MR. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to discuss recent events that are positive steps in the war on terror for the United States and our allies abroad. The first is the announcement that the United States and foreign counterterrorism officials have worked together to make a series of arrests that appear to be linked to a web of Islamic extremists in Canada, the United States, and Europe. The recent death of Iraqi insurgent leader and al-Qaida member Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi is another. These are significant victories against those who wish our country harm.

Last week, Canadian officials arrested 17 people for allegedly plotting to carry out a campaign of bombings, kidnappings and other terrorist acts in Ottawa and Toronto. The arrests were made possible by the monitoring of Internet chat rooms and e-mail accounts tied to suspected Islamic extremists. The arrests came after three tons of ammonium nitrate—common garden fertilizer that is easily transformed into an explosive—was allegedly purchased from undercover officers. Two of 17 suspected terrorists were caught trying to smuggle guns and ammunition from the United States into Canada via the Peace Bridge last summer.

These individuals were allegedly using the Internet to communicate with terrorist facilitators abroad, such as a 22-year-old Web site operator with direct links to al-Qaida who was arrested by British police last October on charges of financing and supporting terrorist activities. Authorities believe the Web site operator was in contact with the individuals in the Canadian arrests, as well as two men in the U.S., sharing surveillance videos and other information for potential terrorist attacks. Included in the surveillance videos were many Washington, DC, landmarks.

Also, just last Tuesday British police arrested an American student in London as he prepared to board a flight to Pakistan. He was wanted in New York for allegedly providing military equipment to people who took it to members of Osama bin Laden's terrorist organization in Pakistan. Authorities have not ruled out a connection to the Canadian arrests.

Here in the U.S., the New York and Atlanta joint terrorism task forces recently arrested two men in connection with an alleged terrorist plot. The plot

included discussions about blowing up oil refineries and disabling navigational aids on airplanes. The investigation began when California police arrested two men for a gas station robbery. A subsequent search of their home turned up documents listing the addresses of U.S. military recruiting stations, the Israeli Consulate, and synagogues in the Los Angeles area. The investigation eventually revealed the existence of a terrorist cell that had been spawned by a small radical group operating in Folsom Prison who considered themselves the “al-Qaida of California.”

American counterterrorism officials are joining forces with their colleagues around the world to unravel intricate webs of terrorist organizations that would do us great harm if not for the efforts of these counterterror experts. I commend them for their efforts to discover terrorist plots and bring them to a stop before they are carried out.

Much further from home, but still close to our hearts are the brave men and women of our Armed Forces deployed in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

I thank our servicemen and service-women in the U.S. Armed Forces for their on-going service to their country, their commitment to American ideals, and their determination to win the global war on terror. We need to continually express our gratitude to the families of the U.S. military personnel, especially those families who have lost loved ones during our most recent deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most important, our Armed Forces continue to seek out terrorists to disrupt their plans both in the Middle East and abroad. They also continue to provide support and guidance to the Iraqi and Afghani people in their newborn democracies. With their steadfast courage, our citizens in uniform have taken the battle to the enemy and achieved success.

Their most recent victory was the elimination of insurgent leader and al-Qaida member Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. His death is an enormous blow to those who continue to terrorize the Iraqi people. Zarqawi, whom Osama Bin Laden has heaped praise upon, has lead a horrific campaign against our troops in Iraq and against the Iraqi people. I am thankful to say that this mass murderer will no longer be able to carry on attempts at undermining the Iraqi national government and the coalition.

Of note in his demise is the international cooperation that spearheaded the operation. After receiving tips and intelligence of his location from Jordanian sources, Coalition forces killed Zarqawi and many of his lieutenants yesterday in an airstrike. It was this exchange of intelligence information between the United States and Jordan that helped to permanently end Zarqawi's operations. I should also note that the Iraqi police were first on the scene after the air strike to help identify our success.

Also, perhaps lost among this news yesterday was another announcement made by Prime Minister Al-Maliki of Iraq that candidates have been named for important cabinet posts in the Iraqi government. After much negotiation, consensus picks were made to fill the defense and interior ministries—both key to a more secure and stable Iraq. Much of our success depends on the men and women forming the Iraqi government, and these are important steps to meeting the security challenges.

The recent announcements in Iraq and our international counterterrorism efforts, while significant, are only small victories in the overall global war on terror. There are more extremists who will line up to preach against democracy and freedom. There are still those that will attack the free people of this world and want to do us much harm.

After news of Zarqawi's death, the forces of al-Qaida in Iraq vowed publicly to continue their so-called “holy war” on innocent civilians. They have stated:

The death of our leaders is life for us. It will only increase our persistence in continuing holy war so that the word of God will be supreme.

In fact, only two hours after the Zarqawi announcement a bomb blew up in Baghdad killing at least nineteen people. It is clear that our success in Iraq against this enemy depends greatly on our continual cooperation with the Iraqi government and the new ministers in charge of security there.

The global war on terror has been a great challenge for our Nation. Yet while the cost has been high, the cost of doing nothing would be even greater. And we cannot do this alone. Only with help of our neighbors, countrymen, and allies throughout the world can we assure that our democratic ideals defeat those of the terrorist extremists. I thank all of them for a job well done.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MR. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes in morning business.

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

MR. CORNYN. I thank the Chair.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

MR. CORNYN. Mr. President, there are two things on my mind today that I wanted to share with our colleagues.

First of all, I wanted to come to the floor to take issue with something that I view as a disturbing trend that I have seen develop over the last few days