

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

when it comes to our ongoing efforts to liberate the Iraqi people and to fight the global war on terror.

Yesterday, during a 9 a.m. press conference with MG Bill Caldwell, the military spokesman in Baghdad, regarding the mission that killed terrorist Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, one reporter asked:

Were you going for Zarqawi? We've heard that you have been going for some other people and then there was some luck involved.

To which Major General Caldwell replied:

We knew exactly who was there. We knew it was Zarqawi. And that was the deliberate target that we went to get.

An AP story yesterday said:

What may have changed the Americans' luck was U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad's efforts to mend relations with Iraq's minority Sunni Arabs, alienated by the U.S. invasion and the new Shiite-dominated government.

And a story yesterday in Time Magazine entitled "How They Got Zarqawi; the Manhunt That Snared Him."

In part I quote that story:

The fact that intelligence agencies were able to close in on a man who had eluded capture for three years, during which his terror operations left thousands of Iraqis dead, suggests that some of those close enough to know Zarqawi's whereabouts and connections may have been ready to shop him to his enemies. Not necessarily, of course.

The story goes on to say:

The intel services could have simply gotten a lucky break through the slow but steady gathering of information, or Zarqawi could have made a mistake. Either way, a key agent in the chaos gripping Iraq has now been taken out of the equation.

Also, as we know, recently there were arrests of 12 men and 5 youths in Canada last weekend, foiling a major terrorist plot to attack targets in southern Ontario. The assistant director of operations of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said the men arrested are followers of a "violent ideology inspired by al-Qaida."

In reporting on this story, CBS News also had this to say with regard to recent terror arrests:

Police in Toledo, Ohio busted another cell in February. This one consisted of three men training to attack U.S. forces overseas. Once again, luck played a role.

So, Mr. President, I got to thinking about this word, this four-letter word "luck." It is certainly a loaded term, and in the context of yesterday's operation, I think it is a pretty dismissive term as well.

Instead of luck, I would suggest that the elimination of Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi was a combination of professionalism, patience, persistence, and precision munitions, not luck. Professionalism, patience, persistence, and precision munitions, not luck.

To me, attributing all of this somehow to luck devalues the preparation of our men and women in uniform as well as our intelligence services and our coalition forces. It doesn't give adequate credit to the heightened awareness that we have exercised since

September 11, 2001, and it certainly doesn't do justice to patient, relentless execution of the war on terror by our fighting forces and allies. So I think it is time we get a little perspective.

Was it luck when officials were conducting an investigation that foiled a plot the impact of which had the potential to rival the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building? Was it luck that motivated the Iraqis to tip U.S. forces to Zarqawi's whereabouts? Was it luck that trained our forces to execute that critical mission? And while we are on the subject, was it luck that our men and women in uniform executed the invasion and liberation of Iraq successfully and in a miraculously short period of time? Was it luck that Saddam Hussein was removed from his position as head of a terrible, tortuous regime and found cowering in a spider hole and brought to justice? Was it luck when CIA forces joined with Pakistani authorities to capture top al-Qaida operative Khalid Shaikh Mohammed?

I can't help but find it interesting that, as the old adage goes, the harder our military and intelligence forces work, the luckier they seem to get. Or it could be more apt to say it this way, in the words of the old adage, luck is when preparation meets opportunity.

All of these achievements were hard won, and all of the victories in this global war are bought with a dear price—and we should never forget that or try to dismiss that hard work and those efforts, the determination and sacrifice as merely luck.

It is not luck that is bringing the fight to the terrorists' doorstep. It is not luck that our country and our allies are hunting down those who would threaten our freedom and perhaps even our very way of life. September 11, 2001, was a dark day in our Nation's history. But let's not forget the meaning of our actions as we fight and win the war on terror is inextricably linked to the events on that day, the day the world mourned with us, the day our friends said, "Today we are all Americans."

Since that day we have worked to bring terrorists to justice, and we are succeeding. We are succeeding because of commitment, dedication, hard work, patience, and sacrifice. We are going to continue doing all that we can and all that we must to defend the cause of freedom.

I caution those who would dismiss these efforts in a world that in this context has little meaning. Let's recognize these accomplishments for what they are and be thankful for the protection provided by our men and women in uniform, our intelligence communities, our friends, and our allies.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I note that today the Department of Homeland Security is announcing the publication of a regulation that addresses a

deficiency in the work verification process to make sure that only people who can legally work in the United States are capable of doing so. Of course, this is long overdue.

The Senate and the House have both passed immigration bills that would overhaul employment verification laws. Restricting the employment of undocumented workers as a means of reducing illegal immigration is not a new concept. For decades, policymakers have recognized that eliminating the magnet of illegal employment is the key, some might even say the linchpin, to controlling illegal immigration.

In 1981, the bipartisan Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy recommended legislation making it illegal to hire undocumented workers. In 1997, the bipartisan U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform stated that eliminating the employment magnet is the linchpin of a comprehensive strategy to deter unlawful immigration.

The U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform went on to conclude that "the most promising option for verifying work authorization is a computerized registry based on the Social Security number."

Despite 25 years of consensus, current employment verification laws are unworkable and unenforceable. An employer must review some combination of up to 29 different documents to determine whether a new worker is legal. Document fraud and identity theft have contributed to the problem, making it easier for unscrupulous employers to look the other way and hire unauthorized workers. The employer sanctions provisions that were passed in 1986, which were supposed to be the tradeoff for the amnesty provided to 3 million people—those employer sanctions have been completely ineffective. So while the amnesty was a success in the sense that 3 million people got a pass, the enforcement necessary to avoid another buildup of illegal aliens was never delivered.

As I said at the outset, the Department of Homeland Security is issuing the publication of a regulation today that addresses this deficiency. It is proposing a rule that will help responsible employers ensure that they are not employing individuals who cannot legally work in the United States. When hired, employees in the United States must present documents to their employers to show that they can work here legally. Many people use their Social Security card as one of those documents.

When unauthorized aliens try to defraud their employers by presenting fraudulent identification or Social Security cards, the employers will often receive a "no match" letter from the Social Security administration. This "no match" letter informs the employer that the name associated with the Social Security number does not match.