

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.

Until now, many employers have not known what steps to take upon receiving such a mismatch notice. Many mistakenly believe that they must immediately fire the employee. The absence of clear guidance has frustrated employers and, all too often, legal employees end up losing their jobs because of this confusion. The proposed rule outlines clear steps that employers can take in reaction to receiving "no match" letters.

The proposed rule contains a safe harbor for employers. If businesses follow these procedures in good faith, they can be assured they will not be subject to sanctions.

While the vast majority of employers seek to comply with the law, too many employers turn a blind eye to obvious violations of the law. In fact, a small percentage of employers are responsible for a large percentage of "no match" letters. The General Accounting Office reported that between 1985 and the year 2000, only 8,900 employers were responsible for 30 percent of "no match" reports.

Some of the other statistics in the General Accounting Office report are even more troubling. Several employers used one Social Security number for more than 100 different employees—the same Social Security number for more than 100 different employees. One employer used a single Social Security number for 2,580 different wage reports. Mr. President, 8.9 million wage reports had all zeros for the Social Security number. In other words, there was no attempt made whatsoever to come up with the correct and accurate number, so zeros were offered as a Social Security number in 8.9 million wage reports.

Mr. President, 43 different employers used the same Social Security number for more than one employee—for 16 years in a row.

The Department of Homeland Security recently conducted the largest worksite enforcement raid to date against a company known as IFCO Systems, arresting more than 1,000 illegal aliens and charging several managers with criminal violations.

Approximately 53.4 percent of the Social Security numbers for IFCO systems were invalid—half—and Social Security had notified the company more than 13 times regarding these discrepancies before it finally acted.

This regulation will therefore provide guidance to employers who seek to comply with the law and will allow the Government to prosecute those who turn a blind eye. But this action by the Department of Homeland Security is only a Band-Aid for the underlying problem. Employers do not have a reliable method to ascertain whether employees are eligible to work in the United States. A paper-based system such as we have now, where you can use up to 29 different documents, will always be vulnerable to fraud and abuse.

Electronic verification is the way. It has been tested for more than 10 years,

and an independent review of the program, the so-called basic pilot program, found that 96 percent of participating employers believe the electronic verification system is an effective tool for employment verification. The Senate immigration bill improves upon the current paper-based system and requires an expansion of the electronic verification system. But the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff told me personally that he has problems with some of the provisions in the Senate bill and that, as drafted, he considers it unworkable.

In my capacity as chairman of the Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I intend to hold a hearing in the coming weeks on this critical issue of employment verification to make sure we get it right.

Twenty years ago Congress sold Americans a bill of goods. They said if you will accept the amnesty, then we will have workable worksite verifications and sanctions against employers who cheat. Yet today, here we are wrestling with the problem, not of 3 million undocumented workers but 12 million. Obviously, the amnesty without worksite verification and employer sanctions is merely a magnet for future illegal immigration.

I believe Americans are a forgiving people. If someone makes a mistake and repents, asks forgiveness and says; I'll try better next time, they are pretty forgiving. But if we are viewed as merely repeating the same mistakes and attempting to trick the American people into accepting another amnesty without actually trying to solve the problem, the consequences for our society and for our national security and for our economy will be too great.

I will, therefore, continue to work with my colleagues diligently during the conference with the House to develop an employment verification system, along with a temporary worker program, that reduces employer burdens and protects workers' rights, but which will allow us finally, once and for all, to come to grips with our broken immigration system.

RECOGNITION FOR LINK PIAZZO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of Nevada's true patriots, Lincoln Piazza: a Reno native, veteran, businessman, and philanthropist.

Link Piazza is the son of proud Italian immigrants who came to Reno in the early 1900s. Link was born in Reno on December 11, 1918. His father was committed to realizing the good life in America and passed this motivation on to his children. Link inherited his father's great commitment to honesty, vision, helping friends, and the belief that there is no country like the United States of America.

Link attended Mary S. Doten Elementary School, Northside Junior High School, and Reno High School. During

World War II, he served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew B-25 bombers on 67 combat missions. He is an honored war veteran and a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross for significant war efforts and achievements.

Community involvement has always been a major part of Link Piazza's life. He has spent a significant time giving to others and contributing to his community. He has donated his energy and resources to a number of civic and fraternal organizations and is a well-respected citizen of the community. Link volunteered his services as official scorer and timer for high school zone and State basketball tournaments for 33 years. He was a sports broadcaster for the University of Nevada games from 1945 to 1950 and was co-organizer of the first Reno Little League. He is cofounder of the Reno Junior Ski Program that still continues to benefit local junior skiers.

As a northern Nevada community leader, Link has been a member of many civic and social organizations. He has served on the Reno YMCA Board, the Reno Rodeo Association Executive Committee, Sierra Nevada Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association, National Sporting Goods Association, the Local United Way Chapter Board, the Board for Hidden Valley Properties, the Reno Rodeo Association Executive Committee, and the Reno Rotary Club. Link has been honored by the National Sporting Goods Association—National Sporting Goods Hall of Fame, and the Washoe County School District's Outstanding Graduate Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Link has also played a significant role in his community's development. In 1938, he cofounded the Sportsman Store with his brother. He was also co-developer of the Hidden Valley Country Club and Golf Course properties. He has supported the Reno Rotary Club, construction projects for the Reno High School Alumni Center, the Nevada Humane Society's Regional Animal Shelter, and the Reno YMCA Youth Center.

Link's positive outlook on life serves as motivation for all who meet him. He weathered the Great Depression, fought in World War II, and helped to build and then nurture his community and country. Link is a very successful man when success means helping others and helping others achieve. He works hard and has persevered. Link Piazza is a true American patriot and humanitarian.

DISCUSSING TAX CUTS

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, in the wake of yet another contentious debate over the size and scope of the Republican tax cuts, I believe that it is high time that this Chamber engages in a serious discussion about the fiscal condition of our Nation and that Senators make an objective assessment of what the economic policies of the last 5