

American people that the alternative would be no less safe.

So far the administration's response to these concerns has been to simply assure people that any future transfer will not endanger Americans. Attorney General Holder says that detainees from Guantanamo would only be sent to American prisons if he is convinced that doing so won't impact the safety of the communities they are sent to. National Security Adviser Jim Jones has said the same thing. On Sunday, he said nothing would be done to make Americans, "less safe."

These assurances may be consoling to some. But Americans deserve more than vague assurances. They want to know which communities are being considered, and they want to know how the people who live in these communities would be affected by the arrival of terrorists. In short, Americans want the kind of assurances and specifics the Attorney General has evidently shared with foreign governments like he did recently on a trip to Europe, but not with the U.S. Congress.

News reports indicate that Alexandria, VA is a possible destination for some detainees from Guantanamo. A few years ago, when one of the 9/11 conspirators, Zacharias Moussaoui, was held in Alexandria, the jail had to set aside a unit of six cells and a common area just for him. Every time Moussaoui was moved to a nearby courthouse, he was transferred in a heavily armed convoy and the entire prison was locked down. And whenever Moussaoui was transferred to the courthouse, traffic was stopped due to security concerns, a major inconvenience to locals and local businesses.

These were the security requirements for just one terrorist. Now imagine duplicating these procedures many times over for multiple detainees from Guantanamo.

Based on its own past experience with Moussaoui, local officials in Alexandria are extremely concerned. The mayor of Alexandria said recently that he is "absolutely opposed" to detainees from Guantanamo going to Alexandria and that he would do everything in his power to stop it. Alexandria's sheriff is also unconvinced by the administration's claims. He said that if multiple detainees were sent to Alexandria, they could "overwhelm the system."

Congressman JIM MORAN, who represents Alexandria, is one of the few people who is open to the idea of domestic transfers. But even he admits the strain would be intense.

Yet what is even more worrisome to some officials at the local level is the prospect that any city which houses these detainees could become the target of a terrorist attack. The residents of Alexandria are concerned about it, and so are the residents of communities all across the country. I can assure you that Kentuckians don't want detainees from Guantanamo living anywhere within our borders, and I know that communities all over the country share the same concerns.

Already, State and local officials in places like Louisiana, California, and Mississippi have been introducing resolutions to stop these terrorists from being sent to their communities. In Virginia, the Stafford County Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution opposing the transfer of Guantanamo prisoners to the Marine base at Quantico. In Missouri, the legislature passed a resolution urging Congress to keep detainees out of the State.

Similar measures have been introduced or approved in other States, including California where Camp Pendleton is considered a candidate to receive detainees. Here in Washington, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are also raising concerns. When one Democratic Senator was asked about the possibility of detainees being sent to his State, he was blunt: "No way," he said, "not on my watch." Other Democrats have voiced serious concerns about the impact transferring detainees would have on their communities. They know about the experience of Alexandria during the Moussaoui trial, and they don't want it duplicated many times over in their own communities.

So there is strong bipartisan opposition to this proposal. I can't think of a congressional district in America that would welcome terrorists. Local communities want the administration to explain how transferring or releasing detainees won't make them, quote, "less safe". And the American people want the administration to explain its plans to their elected representatives in Congress.

Senator SESSIONS, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, has now sent the Attorney General two letters asking what legal authority the administration has to release trained terrorists into the United States. He has yet to receive the courtesy of a response. Imagine that. The ranking member of the Judiciary Committee sent the Attorney General a letter pointing out that the law prohibits the transfer of terrorists to the U.S. soil, and he has not received a reply after two letters. Virginia Congressman FRANK WOLF sent a letter to the Attorney General in March regarding concerns he had with transferring Guantanamo detainees to Alexandria. He has since sent two more letters. The Attorney General has not responded to any of these requests.

Democrats are also demanding that the administration provide details for how it plans to deal with the terrorists at Guantanamo. Senior Democrats are now acknowledging that the administration simply doesn't have a plan and are asking the administration to provide one. Members of Congress have a responsibility to ensure the administration is not taking any actions that endanger the American people, and we have a responsibility to protect our constituents.

It is unacceptable that the Attorney General is willing to discuss details

about his plans for Guantanamo with foreign countries—foreign countries—but not with the American people or their elected representatives. Members of Congress deserve, and the American people expect, the administration to provide us with answers.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, later today the trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds will release their annual report which will give us an idea of the current and projected financial health of these programs. We do not know exactly what they will say, but we know the news will not be good. Everyone knows these programs are unsustainable under current conditions, and the problem is only getting worse.

Unfortunately, it is a problem the Democrats' budget does not address. Despite repeated calls from our side of the aisle, entitlement spending has been overlooked for far too long, and now it is completely—completely—out of control.

This is a fiscal crisis of the first order, and it is a crisis that cannot wait any longer to be addressed. Nearly 7 out of \$10 the Federal Government spends every year goes directly to mandatory spending on programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the interest on the national debt. Soon enough, Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlements will consume about twice the percentage of the Federal budget they did four decades ago. If we do not get control over this spending soon, we will only have a fraction left for vital priorities such as defense, health care, transportation, and other job creators.

We must address the issue of entitlement spending now before it is too late. As I have said many times before, the best way to address the crisis is the Conrad-Gregg proposal, which would provide an expedited pathway for fixing these profound long-term challenges. This plan would force us to get debt and spending under control. It deserves support from both sides of the aisle.

The administration has expressed a desire to take up entitlement reform, and given the debt that its budget would run up, the need for reform has never been greater. So I urge the administration, once again, to support the Conrad-Gregg proposal. This proposal is our best hope for addressing the out-of-control spending and debt levels that are threatening our Nation's fiscal future. More than 800,000 Kentuckians receive Social Security benefits, and we need to make sure the program remains solvent not only for them but for their children and their grandchildren.

Today's report will underscore the urgent need for action, and Republicans stand ready to work with Democrats and the administration to meet that challenge.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as a young man, I came to Washington, DC, to go to school. I came back here to go to school, and I went to law school during the daytime. I worked at night as a police officer here in this Capitol complex. I was a Capitol police officer. I had a badge. I still have that as my souvenir. It has a very low number. I was one of the early police officers, I guess. I worked the night shift. I worked from 3 to 11. Now, I did not do anything very dangerous, and that is an understatement. I watched the doors, helped with the crowds sometimes. The most dangerous thing I did—and the thing I disliked the most—was directing traffic. That was kind of dangerous because in those days they had these streetcar tracks in the middle of Constitution Avenue and Independence Avenue, and trucks, vehicles, would bounce around on those. But anyway, I did not do anything very dangerous.

Every year for decades now, police officers and their families have come to Washington about this time of the year to honor those who have risked their lives and to remember those who gave their lives. Having had a little experience as a police officer, I recognize the sacrifice these men and women who come here have made.

As I said, this is the time of year we honor those who have risked their lives and remember those who have given their lives during the past year. Three of those fearless officers we recognize this year serve in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. It is an outstanding organization. The work they do is intense, and I am very proud of the work they do. Three of these officers are here in the Capitol today.

Last June, police officer Blake Penny was chasing another vehicle, thinking perhaps the person was armed. But the suspect's car flipped over, end over end, and landed on its side. Officer Penny did what any good police officer would do: He went to the car to see if everyone was OK. The passenger came out with gun blazing and shot Officer Penny. Fortunately, he did not kill him. He shot him just above the knee. The other bullets did not hit Officer Penny at all.

It was then that Officer Penny's fellow patrolmen—Sergeant Steve Custer and Officer Christian Jackson—heard those frightening words over the radio that police officers hate to hear but hear them more often than they would like: "Shots fired, officer down." They, of course, raced to the scene because one of theirs was down. In the meantime, even though he was unable to walk, Officer Penny courageously continued to exchange fire with the suspect.

When Sergeant Custer and Officer Jackson got there, they threw them-

selves into the line of fire to administer first aid to Officer Penny and pull him into their patrol car. Officer Jackson drove his wounded partner to the hospital, and Sergeant Custer—a police officer for 36 years—stayed on the scene until backup arrived. Sadly, the suspect was killed in the exchange of fire.

That is the work these brave police officers do every day.

This week, the National Association of Police Organizations is honoring these brave officers with what is called the Top Cops Award. Custer, Jackson, and Penny are Top Cops. They have been designated so by their fellow police officers. This is a tribute given to just a select few of the countless men and women who each year go above and beyond the call of duty.

Today, it is we who are honored to have them here in the Capitol with us. To Officer Blake Penny and his wife Marcia, Sergeant Steve Custer and his wife Marcela, and Officer Christian Jackson and his wife Barbara—they are Nevadans and Americans—Nevadans and Americans everywhere thank you brave police officers for your service and your sacrifice. We are fortunate to have people just like you protecting us every day, not only in the metropolitan area of Las Vegas but all over the country.

We also remember the brave officers who tragically lost their lives this past year.

In Nevada, last February, State trooper Kara Borgognone—a wife and mother of two—was investigating a bomb threat at a gas station in Spanish Springs, NV, when her car crashed. She died from her injuries. She was only 33 years old. Trooper Borgognone will be honored here in Washington this week at the annual National Police Week candlelight vigil for officers killed in the line of duty.

Just last week, in Las Vegas, Las Vegas police officer James Manor—a husband and a brandnew father—was responding to a call in the same community where he grew up. With red lights blaring, he was going to a place where a woman was allegedly being beaten. He was struck by a drunk driver and killed. Officer Manor was 28 years old.

This week, we pause to think of the selfless police officers who have fallen in the line of duty this past year and in years past and their loved ones who have lost a father, a mother, a son or a daughter, a husband or a wife, or even a friend. And we pause to thank those—just like these three brave officers who are here this morning—who each day go to work with a simple job—a simple job, Mr. President—to put their lives on the line to protect people they do not know.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President. Will the Chair please let me know when I have consumed 10 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator will be notified.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Chair.

EDUCATION REPORT CARD

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, after 100 days, there have been a lot of report cards on the Obama administration. I would like, with respect, to offer one on a subject both the President and I think is of crucial importance: the education of the American people.

As a good teacher would—or as my late friend Alex Haley used to say: Find the good and praise it—I would like to start with the good grades on this report card. So to begin with, I give President Obama an A-plus for recruiting. His best appointee, in my opinion, is the new Education Secretary, Arne Duncan from Chicago. The Acting President pro tempore might agree with that. The new Education Secretary grew up, as I did, in a family where the mom was a preschool teacher—my mother in the mountains of Tennessee, his on the South Side of Chicago. He has a background for leadership. He has an agenda for rewarding outstanding teaching, an agenda for encouraging the largest number of charter schools possible, an agenda for encouraging States to set higher standards. He has a close relationship with the President. He is truly a blue-chip recruit. On the subject of rewarding outstanding teaching and charter schools, if he succeeds with that in 4 years or 8 years, it could be a Nixon to China exercise in education. So an A-plus for recruiting.

Then, here is another A-plus: for rewarding outstanding teaching. This is the greatest need we have in kindergarten through the 12th grade in America. Every problem we are faced with—after you deal with the question of having a good parent—has to do with a good teacher. Whether we are talking about a gifted child or the needs of a child with a disability or of a child who has come from a home where a book has never been read to them or whether they are in the mountains of Tennessee or on the South Side of Chicago, put a child with the best possible teacher, and the child almost always succeeds.

In 1983, when Tennessee became the first State to pay teachers more for