

Americans and let them buy their own insurance rather than stuff them into government programs.

Finally, we want clean energy, but we want low-cost clean energy. We want clean air. We want global warming dealt with. We want American independence, but we want energy at a cost that will keep our manufacturing jobs and our high-tech jobs right here at home and not overseas looking for cheap energy. We have a way to do it: 100 new nuclear powerplants, electric cars, offshore exploration for natural gas—that is low-carbon oil. We are still going to need it, so we might as well use our own, although we will use less. Finally, several mini-Manhattan projects for research and development on solar and fusion and other areas that will help us change the energy picture, maybe after 20 years.

These are exciting times. We are glad to be able to contribute our ideas to the debate, and we hope the American people will listen and, eventually, we hope our friends on the other side will join us, and that even the President will take some of our ideas and make them a part of his agenda.

I thank the Chair, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INDONESIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a very recent event that is important to the United States and which should have received a lot greater publicity than it did. I know the occupant of the chair, who is from Alaska, understands the importance of Southeast Asia to our economy and to security for the world. This is where the event took place. On July 8, the people of Indonesia elected democratically their second democratically elected president, Susilo Bambang Yudoyono. For obvious reasons, he is known by the initials SBY. He enjoyed a victory, according to preliminary results by the national election commission, of 62 percent of the vote, based on more than 18.7 million ballots counted. He needed 50 percent of the ballots to win in one round.

His challengers, former President Megawati Sukarnoputri, came in second, with 28 percent, and his previous vice president, Jusuf Kalla, finished third with 10 percent. We will have an official result released by the election commission by July 27.

I think it is very clear that SBY won an overwhelming election. This would put Mr. Yudhoyono well over the 50-percent threshold to avoid a second-round runoff. Those who watch South-

east Asia believe that such an emphatic election victory for a man who became the democratically elected President 5 years ago will cement his position, quicken the pace of reform, and strengthen the country that is very important to that region and, thus, to the United States.

Mr. Yudhoyono rose under the dictator Suharto, who was forced out 11 years ago after more than three decades in power, to a position in the army, where he was a general. But when he became President, he set aside his military uniform and took on civilian garb. He is a liberal who provided much needed stability. Despite the challenges of dismal infrastructure and 30 million Indonesians living below the poverty line, a country that extends through some 17,000 islands at low water, and 13,000 islands at high tide level, it is a country that is the largest Muslim country in the world. A population of 240 million people makes it the fifth largest country in the world. It has 90 percent of its population as Muslims. So this is the key to dealing with a Muslim nation.

Mr. Yudhoyono is credited with bringing economic prosperity with an economy set to grow even in the face of the global downturn, expected to grow by 4 percent this year. Independent observers declared that the Presidential election was largely free and fair, despite an accusation of fraud by his opponents. There is no evidence of that, and we believe it was a free election. It is key to our national interest because it is the keystone for Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia includes a number of countries, perhaps better known to the United States—Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and many smaller countries. It is the fifth largest trading partner of the United States. On top of that, it controls the Strait of Malaka, through which about 50 percent of the world's oil supply travels. It is also an area which offers tremendous opportunity for economic growth for them and increased trade and economic benefits to the United States.

SBY was a general in the national army during the last decade of the Suharto years. During that time, fortunately, he attended the International Military Education Training Institute at Fort Leavenworth, KS. There, leaders of friendly countries come to learn from our military how a military should operate in the modern era where military is under civilian control, where human rights and individuals are respected, where the army does not control the political process, where the army is subordinate to and the protector of the population, rather than one which runs the population.

During his first tenure, as I said, he faced many challenges, and they were successful. He chose as his running mate Mr. Boediono, who we believe raises expectations of accelerating reform in the second term of SBY. Boediono is a technocrat with no party affiliation. He possesses an impeccable

track record for clean governance. He is an advocate, as is SBY, of market-led growth, with government acting as an impartial regulator rather than a state actor. The duo campaigned on a ticket of clean governance and reform to promote broad-based economic growth. This was a vote by the predominantly Muslim country for a moderate prodemocratic path that Indonesia has already taken. They still face many challenges—not just poverty—with the economic problems in the country. They face a long tradition of corruption that has to be dealt with. SBY has taken steps to deal with that and needs to take more steps.

They also face the challenge from radical Islamists who want to establish Sharia law, a government by theocracy rather than by a popularly elected, constitutionally governed government. I will speak more about that in a minute.

Let me give you a little taste of the rest of it. His closest rival, Megawati Sukarnoputri, was the daughter of Sukarno, Indonesia's founding father. Ms. Megawati failed to impress voters during her term as President from 2001 to 2004, and she partnered with a general who was indicted for human rights abuse and was a former son-in-law of a previous authoritarian dictator. They ran a nationalistic campaign that was rejected by the voters of Indonesia.

The third ticket, comprised of current Vice President Jusuf Kalla and a former chief of the army, Wiranto, championed a similar ideological platform, with the difference being that Jusuf Kalla was a link between big national businesses and the government, which we thought he would probably enhance. This sets up an opportunity for the United States.

We are dealing with a very important Islamic country. I believe that it is time for us to realize this is an area where we can make significant progress, if we learn how to work with and provide significant support to a democratically elected head of an Islamic country, who wants to move on the path toward greater economic ties, free from corruption, open to trade and business.

I happen to have laid all this out in a book called "The Next Front," coauthored with Lewis Simons, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter. It will be published by Wiley Books in October. We call it "The Next Front" because what people did not realize until recently was that, after 9/11, one of the indigenous terrorist groups in Indonesia, Jema Islamia, which we will call JI, was a close ally of al-Qaida, and still is. That is a terrorist organization that has spread from Indonesia into the Philippines, and potentially other parts of Asia. The leader of JI was tasked by al-Qaida with carrying out the second attack following 9/11, which was to be on Los Angeles. Fortunately, our CIA, by aggressive tactics and military tactics, prevented that attack.

There is still a real danger to not only peace and stability and progress

in Southeast Asia, but to the security of the United States, unless we ensure that a government such as Yudhoyono's manages to provide security and prevent the development of terrorist training areas and agencies, where they are willing and able to carry out operations, disrupt terrorist organizations.

In "The Next Front," we argue, as I have, that the best way to do that is through significantly increasing contact between the United States and those governments that are dealing with those problems, that are on the wrong track, which have the potential to provide security and peace and prosperity for their own homeland. When they have too many young males who cannot find a job, they are often lured by the radical religious extremists into the terrorist organizations and convinced to undertake terrorist attacks on Americans, on democratically elected governments.

We believe that steps that were taken yesterday in the Foreign Operations Committee, under the able leadership of Chairman LEAHY, to put us on the path to increasing significantly the assistance and the contact we have with Southeast Asia. We increased to \$65 million the amount of economic support fund assistance. They also instituted other programs to provide more assistance for Peace Corps. An expansion of the Peace Corps is one way to get American sandals on the ground now, so that we don't have to put American boots on the ground later.

Smart Power says that when you are faced with a radical, violent extremist group like al-Qaida, or the Taliban, which we face in Afghanistan and Pakistan now, you have to use force to deal with them. At the same time you are using force, you must build up the economy and meet the needs of the local leaders, so that they will work with the forces who are trying to drive the extremists out. That was the secret to the success of General Petraeus in Iraq with the counterinsurgency strategy, who said we will not only clear an area but we will go in and hold it and build, looking to local leaders to tell us what they are doing.

My son, who is a marine, an intel officer who served two tours there, said the first time he was there they couldn't get support from the local government because they were getting no assistance from Baghdad. They were Sunnis in Fallujah. The government in Baghdad was not Sunni; they were Shia, and they didn't provide assistance. The second time, the counterinsurgency and our government were working through the popularly elected Iraqi Government to provide support and assistance to the Sunnis in Fallujah. They were able to cooperate and provide assistance and make sure they kept that area safe.

We are trying to do the same thing now in Afghanistan. I am proud that the Missouri National Guard is leading

the way, along with 10 other States' national guards, and we are sending over agricultural development teams to help the local farmers develop a more effective means of producing crops. We saw, last year, in Kandahar province, where the Missouri National Guard operated for 1 year. They started producing much more high-valued crops. As a result, they no longer needed to produce the poppies needed by the drug lords to manufacture cocaine and dope and opium. They were able to drive the poppy producers—put them into productive use and take the drug lords out, and the Taliban which normally follows them. This is working in Afghanistan.

In areas where we have peaceful governments that are threatened by extremist groups, it makes sense that we increase economic assistance but primarily personal assistance—one-on-one assistance from American volunteers going there—economic assistance, encouraging American firms to invest there, to help them develop small- and medium-sized enterprises; opening up free trade so their products can come into the United States so we can trade with them and so they can build their economies. We need significantly to increase educational exchanges between our countries and theirs.

I mentioned earlier that President Yudhoyono had served in the IMET Program at Fort Leavenworth. I first met him as President—well, I met him before—when I went to Indonesia after the tsunami in Bugatchi, and we talked about the work we were doing to help them recover from that tragic event. But I also extended an invitation for him to come to Webster University in St. Louis, MO, from which he had also gotten a degree. They gave him an honorary degree, and I was pleased to introduce him when he came to St. Louis to Webster University.

His is just one of hundreds, thousands, millions of examples where we have helped develop leaders in countries with which we are allied and which can be even stronger allies. They could take the information we develop, take the learning and the skills we have, and provide the assistance they need to strengthen their country, to provide not only security but a good livelihood for their people so there will no longer be unemployed young men who are willing to take blood money from the terrorists in exchange for a pittance for their family to conduct terrorist attacks.

We think we have a great opportunity not only in Indonesia, following these steps—expanding on the Smart Power that has been used in Iraq, is now being used in Afghanistan—to show that people who work with the United States can expect not domination but help in establishing their own free country, their own democratically elected principles, respect for human rights, and a respect for religious differences so that we respect Muslims and they respect Christians and Jews and Buddhists and Hindus.

That was the original idea of the country of Indonesia when it was founded in the 1940s. They laid out the principles of Pancasila—in which we recognize diversity; we recognize there are different religions; we will learn from and tolerate differences, particularly in religion.

We have a challenge facing us in Indonesia and others where extremists want to establish shariah law, which has mullahs and ayatollahs who prescribe very harsh penalties for women who step out of place, who appear without total cover in broad daylight, where anybody who commits a violent crime is either thrashed or has a hand cut off or is put to death. This kind of backward approach to maintaining law and order is a threat to the civilized world and progress as we know it.

In Indonesia, we have the opportunity to move forward, and I congratulate the people of Indonesia. I particularly congratulate Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Vice President Boediono on their election—re-election—on July 8, and we look forward to seeing the final results certified on July 27. I hope I will have the support of my colleagues for the robust foreign operations support for Smart Power. It is the wave of the future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as the Congress focuses on health care reform, I wanted to take a few minutes to discuss one approach that has been documented by the Congressional Budget Office as producing significant cost savings in American health care. That approach is free choice and rewards for selecting health care wisely.

Today, 85 percent of American businesses that offer health care coverage offer no choices. That is not because they would not like to. Quite the contrary; they would very much like to offer additional private sector choices. But for example, if you are a small businessperson—and I know the distinguished Senator from Alaska identifies with this—and you go out into that broken private insurance market, with huge administrative costs very often approaching 30 percent, you can't offer choices. Without choices there can't be real competition and accountability in health care. As a result, costs go up and care for our workers and our employers and small businesses and others becomes less affordable.

Some in America enjoy a better system, one where they have a full array of private sector health care choices.