

they disagree with the government's policy.

If you are born in a community, you are registered in that community. There may not be economic opportunity there for you. You might want to move to a big city in order to explore additional economic opportunities for yourself and your family. In China that is not possible for the great majority of the people. They are registered in their community, they are expected to live in their community, and they are expected to work in that community. So you have the haves and the have nots. There are many people in China who are doing very well. The vast majority are not.

Then there is the issue of religious freedom. I think we all know about Tibet and the Buddhists in Tibet and how they have been harassed. We know about the Uighers and the Muslim community. What really shocked me was talking to the Protestants who have their house churches. They explained to me that if their churches get too big—maybe over 25 or 30 members—they lose their right to meet. The government is worried about too many people getting together to celebrate their religion. Well, that certainly is unacceptable. It violates internationally recognized human rights standards.

And then they block access, full access, to the Internet. Sites such as the New York Times or Bloomberg are considered to be too difficult for the Chinese people to accept, and the government blocks those sources.

Perhaps one of the most difficult challenges China has today is that it does not trust its own people to innovate and create. Instead, they use cyber to try to steal our rights, our innovation, not just in America but throughout the world. We are very concerned about the proper use of protecting intellectual property, and I raised that during my visit to China.

We are also concerned about the cyber security issues, and I know that was on the agenda of President Obama and President Xi. We would urge progress to be made on acceptable standards on the use of cyber.

Then there is the issue of corruption. Because so much is determined by where you live and your local government, corruption is widespread. That needs to be changed.

So these are important subjects that we raised in a country that is critically important to the United States, but these issues must be debated.

When President Park was here, the President of the Republic of Korea, she mentioned on the House floor to a joint session of Congress that she wants a security dialog in Northeast Asia. When I met with her when I was in Seoul, we had a chance to talk more about it. The more she talked about the security dialog, the more it reminded me of the Helsinki Commission, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was established in 1975 as a

security dialog between all the countries of Europe, now Central Asia, the United States, and Canada.

That security dialog deals with all three baskets of concern. Yes, we are concerned about military actions. We have serious military issues that we need to take up in the northeast. Maritime security issues are very much of concern to all the countries of Northeast Asia. But we also need to deal with economic freedom and opportunity, and we need to deal with human rights.

This type of a dialog would allow us in the north to participate with the major countries in Northeast Asia to work out and know the concerns of each of the countries. It would include not just China and the Republic of Korea but Japan, North Korea, the United States, and Russia.

I would urge the region to either adopt a security dialog similar to the Helsinki process or look at becoming a part of the Helsinki process. We do have regional forums. There is a regional forum for Asia. So it is a possibility that they could actually work under the Helsinki framework.

In my visits to Japan and the Republic of Korea, I know we have two close allies. Japan, of course, is a treaty ally. We have U.S. troops both in Korea and Japan. We are working out ways to make our troop presence more effective, consistent with the political realities of both of those countries.

Both Japan and the Republic of Korea strongly support our policies in Iran and Afghanistan and the Korean Peninsula. The relationship between these two countries must improve. There are serious issues. Of course the comfort woman issue during World War II is a matter of major concern to the Korean population. I certainly support and understand that. But it is important for those two allies of the United States to become closer allies and to move forward in areas of mutual interest. I urge them to do that.

In Japan, I had meetings on the economic issues, on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP, which clearly are areas where we can make advancements. I saw an opportunity to advance U.S. interests in the rebalance to Asia. It is not a pivot to Asia. We used that term originally. It is not. We have been active in Asia for centuries. It is a rebalance because we recognize the importance of Asia. I think we can do that by enhancing our relationship with all the countries in Asia. It is an opportunity to advance U.S. security interests through military cooperation.

I did talk about the military in China. I also talked, particularly in Japan, about more of their students coming here to the United States to advance good governance and economic relationships, and to have a responsible environmental program.

The subcommittee I chair has already held two hearings on the rebalance to Asia, including good governance and military issues. We are going

to hold future hearings dealing with the environmental issues and economic issues.

Clearly, working with the President, I see a major opportunity to advance U.S. interests through our rebalance to Asia policies.

REMEMBERING FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we all lost a dear friend when Frank Lautenberg passed away a little over a week ago. He was a friend, he was a colleague, he was a mentor. In the last Congress I had the opportunity to sit next to him on the floor of the Senate. Our desks were back there in the last row. I had a chance to sit next to him. I tell you—you have heard this many times—but when we had those vote-aromas Frank kept me very much engaged. His sense of humor, his ability to use contemporary activities with a sense of humor kept us all going. We are certainly going to miss that humor.

I also sat next to him on the Environment and Public Works Committee. He was a fierce defender of public health and the environment. I am going to certainly miss his advocacy. He was there to protect clean air. He chaired that subcommittee and took on every special interest in order to protect our children and to protect our communities.

He was a fierce defender of the environment, recognizing we all have a responsibility to pass on the environment in a better condition to future generations.

His story is a story about the success of America. Here we have a child of an immigrant family that came to this country and started anew with virtually no resources. It is very appropriate that I am talking about Frank Lautenberg on a day in which the immigration reform bill is on the floor of the Senate.

I know if Frank were here, he would be talking about his own family and his own experiences and why the passage of this immigration bill is so important for America's future. Yes, we are going to do the right thing for the values of America, but we are also going to help America's economic future and our security in the future. He grew up in a family of poverty. His father died when he was very young. He had no choice after high school but to enter the military. But he wanted to enter the military because he wanted to serve his country. So he went and served our country in World War II. As we know, he was the last surviving Member of the Senate who served in World War II. He did an incredible service to our country under extremely difficult circumstances. He came back to the United States and this country offered him the GI bill opportunity for education. But for that GI bill Frank Lautenberg never would have had those educational opportunities. He took advantage of it and went to business

school. He used that to develop a business that was innovative and creative. There was a need out there to deal with personnel costs by businesses. Frank Lautenberg developed, with his partners, a way in which that service could be provided in the most cost-effective way.

What did that do? That made this country more efficient, more effective. What that did was create a lot of jobs for this country. It also made Frank Lautenberg a fairly wealthy person. That is the American way: innovation to grow our economy, to create jobs, and to benefit by your own innovation. Frank Lautenberg took advantage of that and succeeded in a great way.

But he was not satisfied with that. He wanted to give back to his community. So he served his community. He served his community in many ways. There is a whole host of community organizations to which he provided leadership, his own personal time, in order to help people. He did that. Jewish Federation—he became a national leader there to help communities all over the world. Frank Lautenberg did that as a private citizen because he thought it was the right thing to do.

But then he decided he wanted to serve his community in a different way, so he ran for the Senate, got elected to the Senate, served two different terms in the Senate. He is the only Senator who was both the junior and senior Senator twice from the same State. But he never forgot his roots. He never forgot where he came from. He has a long list of accomplishments, from helping refugees come here to America, to helping keep the air we breathe on airlines safe for our children. The list is voluminous. We have already talked about it. He will be missed by all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bonnie, who we all know so well, and his entire family. To the people of New Jersey and the people of this Nation, Frank Lautenberg was an extraordinary person who made a lasting mark. He will be missed by all. We all know we are better because of having served with him.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to address two issues this morning, but starting with the issue that is confronting us here on the Senate floor. It is a great challenge, but it is also a great opportunity; that is, immigration. The opportunity we have to come together in the Senate, Democrats and

Republicans, is to fix a broken system and to help our economy.

Along the way, as we are working through the immigration bill over the next days and weeks, I think we can not only get this issue on the right track substantively but we can also send a very strong message to the American people that on major consequential issues for the American people we can come together, work together, and get a good result for them. I think that in and of itself is worthy of a lot of attention.

SYRIA

But even as we are working on immigration, of course we have to concern ourselves with a whole range of other issues. One I will speak to briefly this morning is the issue of our policies as they relate to Syria. We are confronted this morning with a headline in the Washington Post. I will hold it up. It reads: "Iran On Ascent As Syria Churns." The first page of the Post. I will read the first paragraph of this story:

As fighters with Lebanon's Hezbollah movement wage the battles that are helping Syria's regime survive, their chief sponsor, Iran, is emerging as the biggest victor in the wider regional struggle for influence that the Syrian conflict has become.

There is one of the reasons why I and others, for not just weeks but months now, have been urging the administration and the Congress to come together on a more focused and more effective strategy as it relates to Syria. We had a good bipartisan effort in the Foreign Relations Committee. We were able to pass out of the committee legislation that dealt with Syria that would provide a whole range of supports and efforts that will lead to a better result in Syria.

I know the White House has spent the last couple of weeks and will be spending even more time today to come up with a policy that makes sense. But I do not think we can any longer pretend this issue is not an issue that concerns our national security, because every day the Iranian regime and Hezbollah plot against us. Anything that results in the regime in Iran being strengthened, as the Washington Post points to today in this story, is bad for our national security.

We have a lot of work to do. Again, this should be bipartisan. But the administration needs to focus on Syria and come to a conclusion about the way forward that will be in the best interests of our national security and also in the best interests of the people of Syria who are fighting valiantly against the Assad regime.

We all agree the Assad regime should not be in power, but we can't just wish that. We will have to take the steps that will lead to that result in a concerted fashion with allies in the region.

I ask unanimous consent the story entitled "Iran on ascent as Syria churns" from the Washington Post this morning be made part of the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed, in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, June 12, 2013]

IRAN EMERGING AS VICTOR IN SYRIAN CONFLICT

(By Liz Sly)

BEIRUT.—As fighters with Lebanon's Hezbollah movement wage the battles that are helping Syria's regime survive, their chief sponsor, Iran, is emerging as the biggest victor in the wider regional struggle for influence that the Syrian conflict has become.

With top national security aides set to meet at the White House on Wednesday to reassess options in light of recent setbacks for the rebels seeking Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's ouster, the long-term outcome of the war remains far from assured, analysts and military experts say.

But after the Assad regime's capture of the small but strategic town of Qusair last week—a battle in which the Iranian-backed Shiite militia played a pivotal role—Iran's supporters and foes alike are mulling a new reality: that the regional balance of power appears to be tilting in favor of Tehran, with potentially profound implications for a Middle East still grappling with the upheaval wrought by the Arab Spring revolts.

"This is an Iranian fight. It is no longer a Syrian one," said Mustafa Alani, director of security and defense at the Dubai-based Gulf Research Council. "The issue is hegemony in the region."

The ramifications extend far beyond the borders of Syria, whose location at the heart of the Middle East puts it astride most of the region's fault lines, from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the disputes left over from the U.S. occupation of Iraq, from the perennial sectarian tensions in Lebanon to Turkey's aspirations to restore its Ottoman-era reach into the Arab world.

An Iran emboldened by the unchecked exertion of its influence in Syria would also be emboldened in other arenas, Alani said, including the negotiations over its nuclear program, as well as its ambitions in Iraq, Lebanon and beyond.

"If Iran wins this conflict and the Syrian regime survives, Iran's interventionist policy will become wider and its credibility will be enhanced," he added.

From Iran's point of view, sustaining Assad's regime also affirms Iran's control over a corridor of influence stretching from Tehran through Baghdad, Damascus and Beirut to Maroun al-Ras, a hilltop town on Lebanon's southern border that offers a commanding view of northern Israel, according to Mohammad Obaid, a Lebanese political analyst with close ties to Hezbollah.

Iran has sought to minimize its visible involvement in Syria so as not to exacerbate sectarian tensions that have been inflamed by a conflict pitting an overwhelmingly Sunni opposition against a regime dominated by Assad's minority Shiite-affiliated sect, Obaid said.

Iran has provided advice, money and arms to Assad's regime, but the manpower needed to bolster his forces, flagging after two years of trying to contain the revolt, has come from Hezbollah, which was founded in the 1980s with help from Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and has become Lebanon's leading military and political force.

"Hezbollah is part of the Iranian strategy," Obaid said. "This counts as a victory for the group of Iran, Syria, Iraq and Hezbollah against the group backed by the United States."