

Senator's understanding that this revealing of the identity of a special agent has so enraged the CIA and its employees that even though there may be an attempted coverup of this in the White House, that it is likely this issue will continue to bubble to the surface; is that the understanding of the minority leader?

Mr. DASCHLE. I have not had any specific report to that regard. But the Senator from Florida has read many of the same news reports I have read, which indicate that CIA personnel take this very seriously, and that to make light of it, to minimize it, to ignore it, to do whatever may be now underway with regard to a questionable investigative effort, is a huge mistake and sets a dangerous and very troubling precedent as we consider situations similar to this in the future.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I thank the Senator for his comments.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the Senator from Florida for his comments, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, parliamentary inquiry: Are we now beginning morning business that has been allocated to this side of the aisle?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business and 21 minutes remain for the Senator's side of the aisle.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I was under the understanding that was leader time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Leader time had expired.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I see. Then, in deference to my colleague, I will just make a couple of comments, and then I will certainly want to hear from my colleague who is one of the greatest orators in this Chamber, the senior Senator from Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

#### FUNDS FOR IRAQ

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I have had a wonderful time this past week in my State of Florida, over the course of 4 days, having about 25 townhall meetings, many of those townhall meetings in the smaller communities and in some cases rural communities of our State. We have a State that has a wonderful blend of urban and rural. Indeed, the State of Florida, as we so well know in politics, is often a deciding factor in a Presidential race because Florida has become a microcosm of the country as a whole, with many people moving to Florida from other parts of the country. Indeed, people are moving to Florida from other parts of the world, particularly the Western Hemisphere.

There have been very clear messages that have come to this Senator from Florida from the people of that State as expressed in these townhall meetings in the past week. One of the clear

concerns is that people are uneasy with the fact that \$87 billion is going to be spent on the occupation in Iraq when there are so many needs here at home. As I would break down that \$87 billion for the people in these townhall meetings I would point out that \$67 billion will be relatively noncontroversial because that is money that goes to the support of our U.S. troops. What is at controversy is the \$20 billion requested for reconstruction in Iraq. The World Bank says \$70 billion will be needed. So this is the first downpayment on \$70 billion, and the administration is proposing that \$20 billion come from the United States right now.

What is it for? It is for building of roads and bridges, it is building schools, it is providing teachers, it is providing training of teachers, it is providing \$800 million for the restoration of wetlands. It is providing for all of the infrastructure such as water systems and road systems and electrical systems.

As I would explain this, I would see people get very restive in these townhall meetings, for they would say: Well, what about our needs for restoring wetlands in Florida? What about our needs for building roads and bridges and repairing roads? What about our needs for money going into education, just as the majority leader has talked about in the \$6.5 billion that is needed to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act—the disadvantaged kids.

What about the superintendents of the school systems who came to every one of those townhall meetings and said not only did they need that kind of assistance in their schools, but need resources to take care of disabled kids, too?

What about the IDEA legislation, of fully funding it?

The clear message that came to me regarding the legislation we will be considering here today on the infrastructure needs in Iraq and the infrastructure needs of our people at home here in America.

We will be considering a number of amendments that do not have to be an either/or question because clearly it is in the interest of the United States to stabilize Iraq, and that we stabilize it politically and economically. But it doesn't have to be an either/or question. Iraq is sitting on the second largest deposit of oil reserves in the world. There is going to be a revenue stream once that oil is up and producing at maximum capacity. There is going to be a huge revenue stream coming from that oil. One of the amendments we are going to consider is the amendment to pledge future Iraqi oil revenue to pay back the \$20 billion the United States of America is going to provide for building up the infrastructure, including the \$800 million for wetlands restoration.

That is a clear message given to me from the folks who came to these townhall meetings.

I will close with this, because I want to hear from the Senator from Illinois.

There was another bombing just a few minutes ago in Iraq. It was the bombing of the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad. It is clearly at first blush my impression that this is an attempt at intimidation of the Turks because they have indicated they were considering in their Parliament the sending of troops to assist United States troops in Iraq.

There was another bombing yesterday. We are having, on average, one bombing a day, and/or the killing of U.S. and Iraqi civilian personnel. Iraq has become a magnet for terrorists.

It is clearly in America's interests to stabilize Iraq. Yet, where is the attempt of the White House and this administration to reach out to the international community at the behest of bipartisan voices in this Chamber? Many of those bipartisan voices come from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee saying you don't want just an American face as an occupier in Iraq; that what you want is an international face; that this is an international problem and not just America's problem; and we have to turn Iraq around from being a magnet for terrorists.

It is my hope the administration will finally start listening to Republicans and Democrats in this Chamber who have not only argued but who have pled for an international approach to stabilize Iraq.

Look at the experience in Bosnia. We are finally getting Bosnia stabilized. But it has taken 8 years. The United States had to go into Bosnia first. But then we were able to bring in the world community, including the United Nations. That can be a good model for us, but it is also a realistic model to realize that it is going to take a lot of troops and it is going to take a lot of time.

With that somber note, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, how much time is remaining in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you very much, Madam President. I thank the Senator from Florida for his comments.

#### JOB LOSS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as Senator NELSON did, I went back to my State of Illinois during the past week and really went from one end of the State to the other. I visited with the chambers of commerce, labor unions, community leaders, hospital administrators, and average people, and talked about things that are on their minds. What struck me was the agenda of America is not the agenda of Congress. I can't get over it. We return here to Washington to discuss important matters but, frankly, ignore the essentials