

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for 30 minutes, with the first half under the control of the majority leader and the second half under the control of the Democratic leader.

The Senator from Arizona.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, there are a lot of problems that affect people around the world and in this country. Some go unmentioned and yet affect millions of lives and are with us every day. One of those problems is the problem of domestic violence.

I was so pleased that both the majority leader and the Democratic leader, this morning, began their official presentations in the Senate talking about the problem of domestic violence and the fact that the Senate, last week, unanimously passed a resolution which supports "the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month," which is this month of October, and expresses "the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families."

Our message in passing this resolution is aimed both at a national audience as well as every individual who is a victim of domestic violence or who knows one. Their message is not a moment of silence, as is frequently the case but, rather, the message is: "It's time to talk." And all around the country—indeed, the world—this message is being conveyed today and for the remainder of this month.

I want to thank Marie Claire magazine, for example, and organizations that are promoting this theme: "It's time to talk." And why is that important? Because as almost anyone who understands the problem of domestic violence knows, the biggest reason the problem remains with us is that it is kept a secret.

People are ashamed or afraid to talk, to begin the conversation that would confront and, therefore, solve the problem. That is why "It's time to talk" is so important. It is not just the victims who should talk, it is society as a whole.

As the resolution states:

There is a need to increase the public awareness about and understanding of domestic violence and the needs of battered women and their children.

It is hard to convey the sense of this problem talking statistics, but I think it is important that we understand the magnitude of the problem, not in terms of human suffering with individual stories but to understand the statistics of how serious the problem is. We have made progress to be sure, but it is still a very serious problem.

An average of more than three women are murdered by their husbands

or boyfriends in the United States every day, and someone in the United States is sexually assaulted every 2 minutes each year. Each year, about 342,000 pregnant women in the United States are battered by the men in their lives, leading to pregnancy complications, including low weight gain, anemia, infections, and many others. In 2002 alone, 250,000 women and girls older than the age of 12 were raped or sexually assaulted, a quarter of a million women. One out of every 12 women has been stalked in her lifetime.

It is an issue not only for today's generation but for children because nearly 9 million witness domestic violence every day. This obviously creates a risk factor in their lives for having long-term physical and mental health problems, including substance abuse, being a victim of abuse, and becoming a perpetrator of abuse. A boy who witnesses his father's domestic violence is 10 times more likely to engage in domestic violence than a boy from a non-violent home. Forty percent of girls ages 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. One in five adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse or both in a dating relationship.

The cost is devastating. The real cost is the emotional and psychological harm that occurs to victims of domestic violence and to their families. But there is also a staggering cost to society. As we noted in the resolution adopted in the Senate, the cost of domestic violence, including rape, physical assault, and stalking, exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, of which \$4.1 billion is spent on direct medical and mental health care services.

The problem exists in my State of Arizona. Just to cite a couple statistics: 81 of the 440 homicides reported in Arizona in the year 2003 were a result of domestic and/or dating violence; this year, as of September 8, there were 61 domestic violence-related deaths reported; in the year 2002, every 5 minutes police responded to a call involving domestic violence; every 19 minutes an arrest was made as a result of a domestic violence incident; and every 36 minutes police were called to the scene of domestic violence where children were present. In that same year, 91 law enforcement agencies in Arizona reported a total of over 112,000 calls to service for domestic violence. Of those calls, there were a total of 26,000 arrests made.

I conclude by acknowledging the dedication of all the people tirelessly working behind the scenes to try to end domestic violence and to deal with the crisis of strengthening the survivors of domestic violence.

I have toured centers in Arizona—for example, city centers against family violence in Mesa, Glendale, and Scottsdale, all leading the way. We have raised money and dedicated sites for the Autumn House Domestic Violence Shelter, Chrysalis Shelter, the Center

Against Sexual Abuse, ChildHelp USA, and the Sexual Assault Recovery Institute, and many others. I thank all of them for their efforts in trying to deal with this important crisis.

I also thank those of my colleagues who have been involved in this effort: my colleague DIANNE FEINSTEIN, who has worked so tirelessly in this effort in trying to provide help for victims of crime, for example; Senator BIDEN, who was one of the authors of the resolution about which I spoke earlier. There are others who will come to the floor of the Senate throughout the morning either to provide statements or to deliver them here noting the nature of the problem.

It is fitting that this month is designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is fitting that our resolution passed in the Senate notes that we should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families, as I said in the beginning. In order to solve this problem, we have to begin by acknowledging it and confronting it. It is indeed time to talk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

WAR ON TERROR AND THE ECONOMY

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the situation in the war on terror. I listened to the debate last night, and I heard the candidate from the other side of the aisle talk about what a mess things were, how terrible everything was, how terrible things are in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is on the verge of having elections. Ten million Afghans have registered to vote in spite of threats.

The Vice President made a compelling case talking about El Salvador. People thought that democracy would never flourish. Yet because of the desire for democracy and the opportunity to vote, we have seen matters turn around.

I had the opportunity to be with the President of El Salvador and the Presidents of other Central American countries at a breakfast. We have democracy in Central America. The lure of democracy is so powerful.

I was listening to the distinguished minority leader, and he made references to the Great Depression, references to the economic situation today in analogy to the Great Depression.

The President has made it clear: As long as any American does not have employment, we have to do better. But the reality is so far from the Great Depression. Some people must walk around and see us surrounded in darkness. In 1996, when Bill Clinton was running for reelection, the January to August average unemployment at this time, where we stand today, was 5.5 percent. It is 5.6 percent today. The unemployment rate for African Americans during that same period, the first-

term average of President Clinton was 11.3 percent. It is 9.9 percent today. The unemployment rate for Hispanics during the first term of President Clinton was 9.7 percent. It is 7.2 percent today. America's standard of living is on the rise. Real after-tax incomes are up nearly 10 percent since December 2000, substantially better than the comparable time period in the previous business cycle. Consumer confidence continues to be substantially high. The national home ownership rate was at an alltime high. Minority ownership has set a new record of 51 percent in the second quarter and is up 2.1 percentage points from a year ago. Core inflation remains low. Mortgage rates remain at historic lows.

There are challenges in this economy, but to draw a comparison to the Great Depression is a little excessive. The reality is, we do have things to do. But I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Set us free. Let's get an energy bill passed, an energy bill that had 44 Republicans voting for it, 13 Democrats. The reality is that if the minority leader wanted to get this done, it could get done.

I represent the State of Minnesota. We are neighbors of the folks in South Dakota. I know they want an energy bill. Within that energy bill is a renewable fuels standards that would double the production of ethanol and will bring to life the soybean biodiesel industry, a great opportunity for our communities. If you want to grow jobs, get an energy bill passed. Give us the number of votes we need to get through cloture.

Let us have class action reform. We came within a few votes of getting that done. You want to grow jobs, talk to the manufacturers in this country, talk to the small business people. They will tell you what they need. They need class action reform. Our friends on the other side won't give it to us.

We need asbestos reform. We need medical malpractice reform. We couldn't even get welfare reform done. Again, those on the other side of the aisle were filibustering, saying: We will not allow it to happen. There is no work requirement today in welfare, if the welfare reform change that was previously passed expires.

We have a lot of work to do. There is a plan and a vision out there. The vision is to make American business competitive with businesses all over the world. We do that by cutting taxes. We don't do that by raising the tax on small businesses, many of which are subchapter S corporations or sole proprietorships that pay taxes at the rate of the highest level. They pay more than large corporations pay. Yet my friends on the other side of the aisle talk about rolling back that tax cut, which would have a devastating effect on small business.

In Minnesota we sometimes talk about the Scandinavian who loved his wife so much he almost told her. As I listened to the distinguished minority

leader, I got this sense that folks care so much they will almost do something.

We have a path to do something. It lies through an energy bill. It lies through medical malpractice reform. It lies through class action reform. It lies through getting the FSC/ETI JOBS bill through. Right now American manufacturers are paying a double-digit tax, in effect, because of a WTO violation.

We can lower that. We can change it. Instead, we find it blocked. No, it is not the Great Depression. There is more work to be done. There is a path, but the path doesn't lie with obstruction. I know the people of Minnesota and of South Dakota need an energy bill, and they want one.

In the last few minutes I have, because I want to give some time to my friend and colleague, the Senator from Pennsylvania, I want to talk a little about what is happening in the war on terror and in Iraq.

This week, the forces of freedom won a major battle. We reclaimed the city of Samarra. We reclaimed it by working with the 5,000-member joint force of Americans and Iraqis liberating that city from insurgents and foreign fighters. The fact is that we are not out there by ourselves, and the reality is that we need the Iraqis to step forward, and they are doing so. Yet the Prime Minister of Iraq came here and addressed a joint session of this body and the House. He then was disparaged by the Democratic nominee for President; the Iraqi sacrifice was disparaged.

Last night, we heard the Democratic Vice Presidential candidate simply dismiss the sacrifice of our strongest ally. We are not in this alone. We are not going to win it alone. But we can win it. We are not going to win it if we take an attitude that it is simply a diversion, if we take an attitude that things are so messed up that nothing will come together. We are not going to win it with folks who don't have the resolve to see this through or have the consistency to say, yes, it is a good thing that Saddam is no longer in power. We are not going to win by dismissing the contributions of our allies—the Polish, the English, the Italians, the Salvadorans, and on and on. We are not going to win it if we dismiss the sacrifice of the Iraqi people. We need them to step forward. We saw in Samarra what happens when you come together: You can liberate a city from insurgents.

Mr. President, we have a lot of work to do. The situation is not perfect, but we can get it done with the leadership of this President.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 1 minute remaining.

GOOD SAMARITAN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I was going to talk about the Kerry

health plan, but I will do that later. I want to talk briefly on the Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act. We have been trying to clear a provision that would allow more equipment—used equipment—to go to volunteer firefighters from companies all over the United States by giving a slight change in the liability standard for companies that donate this equipment.

We have done this in the area of the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, which resulted in billions and billions of dollars in additional food going out to hungry people in America. Nobody has been sued, by the way. What was sued under the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act—we were not taking money out of anyone's pocket with lawsuits. No one, to my knowledge, has been sued by donating firefighting equipment. Nobody is going to lose out—no lawyers—from lawsuits by this donation. It is an opportunity for companies that waste a lot of resources to be able to give back.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 1787

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 748, H.R. 1787, the Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act.

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I might say to the Senator from Pennsylvania, it is a very good bill and one I may be anxious to support. I think one Senator has a problem, but I am told it is very close. I will object at this moment, but I encourage the Senator to work actively because I believe we can clear this bill quickly.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, we have been working for several weeks on this bill. I know both Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN have been helpful. We are getting to the end of the bill. It is vitally important to be able to get this passed so we can get this help on the way. It only had three negative votes in the House of Representatives. This is something we should be able to do for our first responders.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be a period under the control of the minority leader for 15 minutes.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last night, I was in Cleveland, OH—I got back in the early hours of this morning—to be present at the Vice Presidential debate between our colleague, Senator EDWARDS, and Vice President CHENEY. It is an interesting responsibility and assignment that I had, along with several of my colleagues on the Republican side, to provide the so-called spin after the debate. You would think that voters could reach their