

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

#### ISSUES BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise to talk about a couple of issues that I think are very important. One I will get to in a minute, the pending legislation before us, the issue of immigration, illegal immigration, and what we are trying to do to combat that in the Senate.

Today, I am very hopeful that with the proper cooperation, we can get this done today and over to the President in the next 48 hours to begin the process of securing the border and dealing with an issue that may be the No. 1 issue in my State right now. I probably hear about this issue of illegal immigration from casual contact with my constituents in grocery stores, the train station, et cetera. I have more people asking me about the issue of illegal immigration than any other issue we deal with.

It is remarkable in the sense that if you talk to folks here in Washington and the "experts" in the media, this is not important to people. Particularly, you would think in a State such as Pennsylvania, which is miles away from the southern border but not too far from the northern border, this would not be an important issue. But it is an important issue. It is one that I am very pleased the Senate is going to deal with today after, I think, making a misstep in the previous consideration of illegal immigration legislation. We have now taken a step in the right direction, a step where we put the horse before the cart instead of the cart before the horse. So I am very excited about that. I will mention that in a moment.

There is one issue I wanted to get to. It is an issue the leader spoke about last night, the issue of Iran and the Iran Freedom and Support Act, which was passed in the House of Representatives yesterday. The House negotiated—and many of us in the Senate were involved, as well as the White House—and worked on an extension of the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, to update that act, which needed to be done, and to take into consideration the change in dynamics in Libya and the change in dynamics with respect to Iran.

There is no country that I see on the horizon that is more dangerous to the national security of this country, in my opinion, than the country of Iran—not just to the national security of this country but the safety and security of the world. We need to have a better regime of sanctions as well as a better overall policy for dealing with Iran than what we have today in the ILSA, or Iran Libya Sanctions Act.

The House of Representatives, on a bipartisan basis, worked on the legislation, again, with the administration, which previously had opposed the Iran

Freedom and Support Act, a bill that has 61 cosponsors here in the Senate, which we debated earlier this year. They took elements of that bill and the companion bill in the House, offered by ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN from Florida. Working together with several House and Senate committees and with the administration, they were able to come up with a compromise and, again, many of us in the Senate worked with the administration and the House in crafting this. We were able to pass a bill that got so much support, they didn't even have to take a record vote on it. It passed by consent over there. That tells you the kind of strong support the bill enjoys. It was a bill authored by TOM LANTOS and ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and the chairman and ranking member of one of the committees of jurisdiction, the International Relations Committee, were on the legislation and, again, it passed yesterday unanimously. That bill now is sitting on the floor of the Senate, at the desk.

The leader mentioned last night that it is our intent to bring this legislation up and to try to pass it in the Senate. We did not, last night, ask consent to do that because we were made aware there might be concerns on the other side of the aisle with respect to some of the provisions. We wanted to give ample opportunity to have the other side go through the legislation.

Again, I state that this is not a new issue. I know the Democratic leader got up today and suggested that there have been no hearings on the bill and there hasn't really been a discussion on the bill. I will tell you that just within the last year, the following hearings were held:

There was an ILSA reauthorization hearing in the Banking Committee, June 22; a terrorist threat hearing in the Homeland Security Committee, November 15 of last year; a nuclear Iran hearing, Foreign Relations Committee, March 2; response to nuclear Iran, Foreign Relations, September 19 of this year; Iran's nuclear and political ambitions, a two-part hearing, May 17 and 18 of this year; Iran's nuclear program/intelligence, Foreign Relations Committee, May 11.

In addition, as I mentioned, the Senate fully debated for 3 days the amendment I had offered to the National Defense Authorization Act back in June of this year. We debated that amendment for 3 days. We had a vote on the Senate floor. We had a full discussion of all of the provisions in the act, many of which, as I mentioned before, have been dropped. But many of the provisions that were debated were added to this bill—the ones that were noncontroversial. Things that were controversial were adapted to make them noncontroversial.

To suggest that somehow this is a brandnew piece of legislation, we haven't seen this before, there haven't been any hearings, we don't know anything about it, is just not accurate. We have had a full debate.

This is an important issue. For the United States Senate, for the Congress, the President to speak out on the issue of Iran at this time is critical as we confront, as we saw from a couple weeks ago, the machinations at the United Nations and President Ahmadinejad up there saber rattling as he does a little bit at the United Nations, but he is rattling sabers and all other types of weaponry in front of the people of Iran when he goes home and he speaks in his native language.

This is a very serious and dangerous threat. It is without question the principal reason we are having increased problems in Afghanistan and Iraq, because of the influence of Iran. Iran is there with fighters from Iran, with money and support, weaponry from Iran to foment sectarian violence. One of the reasons we are having the level of sectarian violence that we see there is because of Iran and its stated intention of being the dominant view in the Islamic world. The clash between Shia and Sunni is front and center in the ideology of the ruling mullahs of Iran and the President of Iran, Ahmadinejad. This is what their objective is. It is part and parcel of their own war within their religion, but it is also part of their strategy of destabilizing Iraq so democracy cannot flourish because if democracy flourishes, then it is an opportunity for moderate Islam to win the day over the fanatics who are trying to destroy that religion and destroy the world.

This is a vitally important issue for the Senate to bring up, I think no more important issue than for us to deal with this real threat, as I said on the floor a couple of weeks ago, I think the greatest threat that has ever faced this country and the world. If we do not act now when this threat is in its nascent stage, we risk cataclysmic consequences by not confronting this evil in time. We risk cataclysmic consequences if we don't, as this legislation permits, put increased sanctions on companies that do business with Iran and their nuclear program.

This is a very important piece of legislation, one that is so important that we were able, as I mentioned before, to get this kind of very quick consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives, and it passed unanimously. People in the House understand the threat of Iran. I hope the Senate does so also.

I will submit for the record the provisions of what this bill does. Some have suggested that it is a watered-down version of the Iran Freedom and Support Act. So to that degree I say, yes, it is, but it is watered down for the purpose of arriving at a consensus so we can speak into the moment.

It does make major changes particularly with respect to the President's waiver. We have had ILSA now for 10 years. We have a situation where a waiver has only been utilized, to my recollection, one time because there is no requirement the President has to

use his waiver authority. The President can look at these issues and decide yes or no sanctions, but there is no trigger, there is no force for the President to actually do something.

This compromise bill would encourage him to actually do something, to actually look at this information, make a decision, and if sanctions are warranted as a result of the investigation, then the President either has to impose those sanctions or waive them for six months. Right now he doesn't have to waive them. He simply keeps investigating. That is an important point to highlight.

That is an important pressure point that Iran needs to know that we are ratcheting up—albeit slightly compared to the original Iran Freedom and Support Act—we are ratcheting up the pressure on this illicit regime in Iran to do something. It is very important for the future security of our country.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD a fact sheet on the bill.

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

#### FACT SHEET ON SANTORUM IRAN BILL

Senator Santorum and Majority Leader Frist worked with House counterparts, House leadership, and Administration officials to craft a new bill that provides for key enhancements to the soon to expire Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA).

The bill also contains provisions that authorize assistance to pro-democracy groups inside and outside Iran, and provides additional authorities in the way of tools to curb money laundering efforts that support WMD proliferation.

The bipartisan House bill, H.R. 6198, was just passed by the House by voice vote.

This Santorum-Frist/Ros-Lehtinen-Lantos bipartisan Iran Freedom and Support Act contains several crucial elements that advance U.S. policy towards Iran:

First, it codifies sanctions, controls and Executive Orders in place against Iran. This was an important part of S. 333, the Iran Freedom and Support Act. This is a way Congress can make these important Executive Branch actions and measures part of our laws.

Second, the bill addresses the issue of investigating foreign investments in Iran's energy sector and revises the current waiver for the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act. The bipartisan bill strongly urges the Administration to investigate investment activity in Iran and report to Congress within 180 days on an investment. Instead of continuing with the open-ended waiver in current law, the bipartisan bill authorizes the President to avoid sanctioning foreign companies that invest in Iran's energy sector only if use of the waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States. This is a six-month waiver, not an open-ended waiver. The bill permits the President to renew this waiver for six month periods. The bill also extends ILSA, due to expire on Friday, September 29, 2006, until the end of 2011.

Third, the bill directs the President to impose sanctions on foreign entities that export, transfer or provide Iran with WMD or WMD-related technologies or destabilizing conventional weapons. The President must impose these sanctions if a transfer occurs. This provision was also a key component of S. 333, the Iran Freedom and Support Act.

Fourth, and perhaps most important, the bill authorizes assistance for pro-democracy

forces inside and outside Iran. These funds are authorized for groups that are committed to democratic ideals, respect for human rights, and equality of opportunity, among other things. Activities such as radio and television broadcasting into Iran are examples of activities that could be funded under this bill.

Fifth, the bill states that Congress declares it should be the policy of the U.S. to support the efforts of the people of Iran to exercise self-determination over the form of their government, and to support independent human rights and peaceful pro-democracy forces inside Iran. This provision is central to our efforts to successfully effect peaceful change inside Iran.

Sixth, there are provisions that enhance current money laundering sanctions available to the government. Current law is enhanced to enable Treasury to target entities that are involved in money laundering related to the proliferation of WMD and missiles.

In all, the bill takes many of the provisions found in S. 333 and H.R. 282, the House companion, and blends them together in a bill that has earned Administration support.

The bill is supported by outside stakeholders such as the American Israel Political Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I am hopeful today that the leaders will be able to get together and will be able to get consent to move forward on this bill. I assure you, this is a bill we must pass. This is "the extension" of ILSA with some very well thought out, negotiated compromises between Republicans and Democrats in the Congress, as well as the administration. I am hopeful that we can get a successful conclusion to that bill. The security of our country demands it.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to move to another topic, and that is back to the issue of immigration and the fence bill with which we are dealing.

A lot of people have talked about a variety of implications of this legislation. To my mind, one of the principal considerations is the issue of national security.

The 9/11 Commission stated in the preface of its report that:

It is perhaps obvious to state that terrorists cannot plan and carry out attacks in the United States if they are unable to enter the country.

That is obvious, but it is an important statement to be made that one of the things we must do to help secure this country is to make sure we have a better immigration policy, whether it is a legal immigration policy and people coming here legally, properly screened for legal immigration, or people who are coming in.

One of the things we are hearing is there are a lot more people coming across the southern border who are being picked up who are not Mexicans, who are not from Latin America. They are coming from other countries, other places around the world. This becomes an increasing concern with the porous southern border.

I commend the House for putting forth this bill. This is a very important part of an initiative that I have been talking about since the Senate passed an immigration bill which I said was, in my opinion, a misstep. I offered a package of legislation called the border security first approach, which is: Let's focus on the border. Let's focus on first things first. If we have a problem with 11 million people and growing, people who are in this country illegally, the first thing we should do is stop the growth. We should take a problem that now looks to be an infinite problem, an ever-growing problem, and make it a finite problem with a specific number of people who are here. But the idea that we are going to solve the problem of illegal immigrants by dealing with this, as the Senate bill did, by legalizing people who are here illegally without solving the problem of more and more people coming—in fact, being another beacon for more people to come because if they do come, and they get here illegally, we are going to legalize them at some point—it just, in my mind, is putting the cart before the horse. We need to put the horse out there, and the horse is stopping the problem from getting worse. That means border security.

A key element of border security that I think is obvious—certainly obvious to the American public; it is an 80-20 issue in my State—is to construct more physical barriers. That is what this legislation does.

It is important not just from the standpoint of the 9/11 Commission and terrorists, but what we are seeing in our State—again, we are far from the border—is an ever increasing problem of illegal immigrants in illegal activity in our Commonwealth. We had the U.S. attorney for the eastern district at a press conference where I announced a \$2.5 million grant to deal with the 222 corridor from Lancaster leading up into the Lehigh Valley. We have an explosion of gang activity there, much of it driven by illegal immigrants and a whole new crop of gangs from south of the border that are causing problems in that 222 corridor. We were able to get a Justice Department grant to help, but I think it points out the problem.

Hazleton, a sleepy little town, the wonderful little town of Hazleton has gotten on the map because of the problems illegal immigrants—criminal problems, drug problems, gang problems—have brought into that community.

It is a continuing problem. Just last week, Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested 100 criminals who were illegal aliens and other folks who were immigrants out of status living throughout Pennsylvania, all the way from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh.

Among those arrested were sex offenders, people who have committed burglaries, larcenies, robberies, criminal trespass, weapons violations, narcotics violations, aggravated assaults, resisting arrest, fraud, et cetera. All of