

problem, but I don't see it changing right now. I think that is a sad commentary on the state of affairs.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Certainly.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I appreciate the Senator's comments, and I so much value our relationship and our ability to work across the aisle, because we seem to get a lot done when we do that. It is an encouraging sign on one of the very difficult issues of our day, which is immigration, that we do seem to be working in a bipartisan way, and it is amazing what can be accomplished when we do work bipartisanship.

I can't help but be shaped by my own life experience, and I remember as I came to America and was learning the ways of this country, and I admired so much this new land of mine, that I would marvel at the phrase: "Politics ends at the water's edge." That used to be the standard. There were these towering giants of another day who occupied these very desks we now use as ours who seemed to find it within themselves to reach a little higher to work across party lines in those post-war years, in the Cold War years when it was so essential.

I think what we need to adopt as a country is the understanding that this struggle against this enemy is long term, that we are going to be in this fight for a long time, probably the time of your service and mine. I hope not, but perhaps. If we are going to be successful in that endeavor, we have to set politics aside. We have to find a way that we can think of America first and whatever label we wear in a secondary way. I am not preaching to my colleague from Florida or anyone in particular. Frankly, the blame lies on both sides of the aisle, with Republicans as well as Democrats. We have to find a way we can move beyond the momentary gain we might make over a 24-hour news cycle for the longer term good of the Nation and the longer term good of what America stands for to the world.

Anyway, maybe the Senator and I began a rare moment here this morning in talking about Iraq where we are not yelling at each other and we are actually talking about how we can bridge our differences and find consensus as something that will help the American people.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I say to my colleague, work in your sphere of influence and this Senator will try to do the same. What we have is an approaching train wreck, because if the Congress passes this emergency funding bill for the war that has this language in it, if that passes this week, then the President is going to veto it next week and that is going to leave us right back where we are, with both sides making a lot of noise and a lot of rhetoric, but that doesn't get us any closer to where we are going. So I say to my colleague, look over the horizon beyond this week and see where we can come together.

I thought the most promising prospect was when Jim Baker and Lee Hamilton came down with the Iraq Study Commission report. They showed, in a bipartisan way among very prominent people of both parties, how you should approach this Iraq situation, and yet, that was last November or December when it came out, and here we are 4 months later and still we have not come together in common ground. So I would encourage my colleague to keep working.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I thank the Senator.

KIDS AND CAR SAFETY ACT

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I want to talk about a sad situation we can do something about. A year ago this little girl, Veronica Rosenfeld, and her mom were walking in their Boca Raton neighborhood. This little girl, Veronica, was about 5 feet ahead of her mother on the sidewalk when a neighbor, not seeing little Veronica, backing out of the driveway, backed out over her and killed her. Her mother was right there, and there was nothing she could do about it. It is every parent's nightmare to certainly see their child die, but how much more horrible to lose them and be totally helpless in preventing a senseless accident—an accident that could be prevented.

Let's talk about that, the prevention of the accident. Look what has happened in the last 6 years. There has been a 138-percent increase in the last 6 years in the number of children killed in these noncrash fatalities in which people back over a child because they can't see the child. Several children are killed every week in the United States, and sadly—and this is why I bring it up again; I have brought it up several times to the Senate—this past weekend in Florida, two more children died in their driveways. In Hollywood, FL, a 3-year-old died when her father accidentally backed over her with his cargo van, and in Fort Myers, a 5-year-old was killed by her 16-year-old brother when he was parking the family car.

Mr. President, this month alone, April, there have been 11 children backed over and killed in this country. These injuries and deaths continue to occur, even though we have the technology to prevent many of them. But we need legislation to put this technology to use. In April alone—and we are not even to the end of April—they have happened in Indiana, New York, Georgia, three in Florida, two in Texas, two in California, and one in Hawaii thus far. And it is only April 24.

This is why a bunch of us have gotten behind the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act. It is a bipartisan bill that would provide drivers with the means of detecting a child behind their vehicle. This bill would also ensure that power windows would automatically reverse direction to prevent a child from being trapped and mandate a car's service brake to engage to pre-

vent rollaways. We have this technology in a lot of vehicles. We have been in the vehicles where there is a signal that goes beep, beep, beep, and it becomes more frequent when an object is detected behind the car. The technology is there, and it is already being used. The same thing for windows. A child's head is in a window and suddenly the window goes up. It hits resistance and it reverses, and a parking brake automatically engages to prevent a rollaway on an incline.

Consumer groups have teamed with the parents of victims to suggest ways that are relatively simple and inexpensive in order to ensure that more parents won't have to endure the pain of losing a child. The technology is there. We all want to be safe behind the wheel of a car, especially when we back up. How many times, when we back out of our garage, do we have that nagging thought: Is there a child behind this vehicle I cannot see? Why go through this trauma anymore? Let's pass this Kids and Cars Safety Act, and then we can stop a lot of these needless deaths.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BIDEN. 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.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I will proceed in morning business. I believe I have time allotted to me.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority has 15 minutes.

IRAQ

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, President Bush has spent the last 2 weeks talking up the "progress" we are making in Iraq and talking down the Democrats and some of our Republican colleagues for trying to bring this war to a responsible end. But sometimes that is a problem because you have to deal with the facts. The facts are not as the President wants them to be but as they exist on the ground. The fact is, the President is totally out of touch with reality. He is out of touch with the American people and with America's interests in the region.

I have been here a while, and I can say I have never seen a President as isolated since Richard Nixon. The President appears to be totally removed from reality. He tells us that Attorney General Gonzales has done a great job, when anybody who watched it views it as one of the least impressive appearances of an Attorney General. He tells us that the President of the World Bank, an American, is doing a great job, oblivious to the damage being done to America's reputation around the world. And against the advice of some of the most gifted military men and women in a generation,