

Our troops are heroes who are sacrificing for this Nation. It is time for this Government to wake up and provide them with the care they need.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to express my appreciation to one of the best soldiers we have ever had in the Senate, the Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY. No one looks out for the troops more than she does. Her statement today is certainly reflective of a problem we have with suicide, which I know something about.

#### LYLE SENDLEIN

I want to make one brief correction in the statement I gave this morning—not a correction, an addition. I talked about National Football League players and how they are not treated right, the old-timers who have been hurt playing professional football.

I talked about someone I went to high school with by the name of Rupert Sendlein, who was a fine high school football player. But his son was an All American at the University of Texas, played many years of professional football.

What I said this morning is that his grandson, Rupert's grandson, Lyle, was also a star All-American football player at the University of Texas. What I failed to mention is he started a number of games this year for the Phoenix Cardinals. He is much bigger than his father and his grandfather. He is 6 feet 6 inches, weighs 310 pounds, and is also a professional football player. I want the RECORD to reflect that I forgot to mention he was playing professional football.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

There will be no rollcall votes today. I am disappointed we have had one rollcall vote all week. There is no reason to point fingers. It sometimes happens. We have two extremely difficult areas of legislation, one dealing with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the other dealing with the stimulus package. These two things have been very difficult to work out.

I have been told, with the last conversation I had with the Speaker, as a matter of fact, to try to work out one of the chinks we had on our side with the FISA legislation. I think that is worked out on our side. You never know what is going to come up.

But that is the way it is. It is my understanding the Republicans are going to now, once the agreement has been written, they are going to hotline that and see if we can get that done. But regardless of that, the Republican leader and I spoke a while ago, and we hope we can get this done so it will give us a way to end this early next week.

But there will be no votes today. It would not be fair to everyone to start on this bill, as we would not be able to

do it for another 45 minutes or an hour the way things go.

I wish to say a couple things. The package we got from the Senate Finance Committee yesterday deserves the attention of the American people and deserves the attention of this body, Democrats and Republicans. Why? Because it is a stimulus package. Is there anything wrong with the House package? Of course not. It is a good package. But ours is so much better. If we are talking about stimulating the economy, I think we need to understand that 21.5 million seniors will stimulate that economy. And they would get one of these rebates, all 21.5 million of them.

If we are concerned about stimulating the economy, who would spend it more than disabled veterans? We have 250,000 disabled veterans who are part of our package. That is important and that is good.

Unemployment benefits. I am not here to boast about it, but my State, the State of Nevada, for the first time in a long time, has a problem with unemployment. We had, for 20 years, the most booming housing market in the country.

People thought they were economic geniuses. They were buying homes and selling them. But when the downturn came, almost half the people who are in foreclosure did not live in the home. They are buying them for speculation purposes. They made a lot of money in the previous years, but the man came to the door and said: You cannot do that anymore.

So unemployment is a difficult problem we have. I visited this afternoon with the labor leaders of southern Nevada and northern Nevada. We have a real problem. Unemployment benefits are part of the Senate Finance Committee package. It is important and deserves a vote. We are going to have one on this at the right time.

Also, housing. The President in his State of the Union message talked about a number of items. One of the things he talked about was to set up a tax-free bond provision. In the past, most of these bonds have been used to build new homes. Well, we are not building new homes.

So what the President wants and Senator JOHN KERRY wants is to use these bonds to refinance homes. A great idea. The President likes it. We like it. That is part of the Senate Finance Committee package.

We also have in this package something, again, being very provincial, talking about something important to the State of Nevada, renewables. We have to ween ourselves from this oil that we get from deserts around the world. Venezuela, and some of the most tyrannical governments in the world in the Middle East. They are shipping us oil every day and around the rest of the world. Venezuela, interestingly enough, the leader of Venezuela comes to the United Nations and calls our President names.

Now, the fact is, before the United Nations, on American soil, no one should have the right to call my President names like this man did. What we should have told him is: Keep your oil.

We couldn't do that. We depend on his oil. We depend on Venezuelan oil.

This legislation that is coming from the Senate Finance Committee sets up some tax incentives for people to develop renewable fuels. People say: Is that going to stimulate the economy? You bet. If we provide tax incentives for these companies, they will start investing tomorrow—tomorrow—which means jobs; not scores of jobs, not hundreds of jobs, not thousands of jobs, tens of thousands of jobs. In the little town of Searchlight, NV, where I am from, I got a call when I was home from Senator Richard Bryan. He owns some property a few miles out of Searchlight. He said: They want to put up some windmills on your property. Do you want them to do that?

I said: Look, I don't want anyone to think I am getting any money from windmills, so have them put up all the windmills they want. I don't want anything from it. So put up the windmills.

Now I understand they are going to put as many as 200 of these huge windmills near my town of Searchlight. These windmills would be maybe 2½ miles from my home. Good, 200 megawatts of electricity. And they are waiting for tax incentives. Right now we have tax incentives for a very short period of time. What we have done with the Senate-passed provision, it will extend some of them up to 2 years because there is already a year to go on some of them.

Also extremely important, the business package is something for which the business community is clamoring. The House package has some good tax incentives in it for small business and businesses, but ours is better. This is in no way to criticize what the House did, but it is also underlining how good our package is. So we are going to work to pass the Finance Committee bill.

I have been told—I got a couple Blackberries today—by Members of the minority, the Republicans, surprisingly, but I don't want to mention names on the floor because things can always change—but I was surprised that people are supporting this, Republicans are supporting our package. So I think we can get 60 votes. If not, we are sure going to try. I think as time goes on and people look at what we have done, it is going to become even more appetizing. It is going to be better each day that goes by. So we will get to this legislation long before the cutoff date that I said we would complete it; that is, February 15. We have 15 days to go. We are going to finish this bill, I would hope, early next week or sometime next week. We are certainly going to try.

One of the calls I got today was from AARP. This organization, I don't know how many members they have, but millions. The one thing they have identified this past year is this. This is going