June 14, 2000

The bill we have put forward would allow the prosecution of people who traffic in human flesh and increase the criminal penalties for doing so. It would provide visas for people who are trafficked into this country, so they can stay and provide evidence, testifying against those who have trafficked them into this country.

This bill would provide some help to the countries they come from by providing educational assistance to work with those governments, to work with people that are in-country to work against this sort of activity, and to provide more information to people that sex trafficking is going on on an expanded, global scale. Nearly some 600,000 people a year are trafficked in human flesh. Much of this happens in the United States. 50,000 people are trafficked into the United States on an annual basis.

I will happily provide to any offices interested in this issue the hearing record Senator WELLSTONE and I have compiled on this bill, so Members can look into this issue. If they seek to make modifications to improve the bill, our office will be open to work with any office so we can reach unanimous consent on this important issue. It is something we need to and can address. The Administration wants this addressed, as well and is working with us to make that happen. The focus on this issue is increasing. In fact, you may have seen one of the recent news reports about this hideous practice.

I am hopeful the time is coming where this body will address this, that it will not get held hostage to any other legislative matter that might be having problems. I am hopeful that we see this as clearly something we can address and that needs to be addressed. I will be bringing to the Senate individual stories of people who have been trafficked because they really tell the terrible plight.

One lady testified in our committee who was trafficked out of Mexico who thought she was going to get a job washing dishes at a restaurant in Florida. She agreed to having somebody take her across the border illegally. Once in the United States, she was their hostage, she was their slave, if we want to put it in those gross types of terms. They said: Instead of being a dishwasher, you will be a prostitute for us. We are going to move you around in trailers to use, and we will subject you to 30 clients a day and, after that is done, to the owners of this brothel as well.

This was the testimony of a witness who reported on activities occurring in this country within the past several years. It is occurring on a large scale. We need to address it; we need to deal with it.

GAMBLING ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, another issue I am hopeful of getting in front of the Senate this year is a bill to ban gambling on intercollegiate athletics.

Yesterday the House held a hearing in the Commerce Committee and a markup on a bill to ban gambling on intercollegiate athletics in the United States. There is only one State in which that can occur today. It is in Nevada. There is clearly a problem we need to address. We have had more points shaving scandals in collegiate sports in the decade of the 1990s than all prior decades combined. There is about $1 billion a year bet on our student athletes. It has been a big problem on our college campuses and is growing. We have had it in New York and it is illegal. In all the rest of the States, this is illegal. In order to deal with the problem of collegiate gambling, we need to make the gambling on our kids illegal. Again, currently it is legal in only one State, and that is Nevada.

The NCAA is a strong supporter of banning gambling on college sports as are all the coaches. Yesterday, the House Judiciary Committee heard from Tubby Smith from the University of Kentucky and Lou Holtz, football coach. Both testified strongly in favor of this bill. They want to get this gambling influence contained at the collegiate level.

I am hopeful we will reach agreement to have a vote on this issue sometime before the legislative year expires. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURkowski. Mr. President, are we in morning business at this time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business until 2 o'clock.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that they speak 7 or 8 minutes at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOS ALAMOS SECURITY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, a few days ago, June 12, we were advised of a security incident associated with our Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The particular notification initially came out in a press release from Los Alamos, unlike a press release from the Department of Energy. It specifically stated that the Los Alamos National Laboratory announced a joint Department of Energy-Federal Bureau of Investigation inquiry underway into the missing classified information at the DOE Laboratory.

The information was stored on two hard drives. It was an electronic transfer. These two hard drives were unaccounted for.

This is a serious matter, to say the least. The press release indicated that at this point there is no evidence that suggests espionage involved in this incident.

Today we had an opportunity to hold a joint hearing between the Intelligence Committee, chaired by Senator SHELBY, and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which I chair. It was rather enlightening because the Secretary of Energy was not there, although he was invited. The significance of what we learned was that no one bears the ultimate responsibility. The Department of Energy suggests that they designated certain people to bear this responsibility. There was a process and procedure underway, but circumstances associated with the disastrous fire, the need for evacuation and other factors, all led to the missing documentation and the two hard drives.

I can generalize and suggest that, well, our national security to a degree were in smoke in the disastrous fires in New Mexico. You can lose your car keys, but you don’t lose these hard drives.

What we are talking about is the very highest security interests of this Nation. Missing on the hard drives is the highly sensitive information that covers not only the Russian nuclear weapons programs but how we arm and disarm nuclear devices. Imagine what this could mean in terms of the hands of terrorists. They could theoretically steal a nuclear device and either arm it or disarm it. That is the kind of information for which we cannot account.

Earlier today this body voted 97-0 to confirm the new czar, Gen. John Gordon, who has been waiting since May for confirmation. It had been held up by Members on the other side who had a problem on his nomination with responsibility. There was a process that came as a result of a report ultimately set up. This commission came as a result of a report from the House. That report ultimately resulted in the appointment of a former respected Senator, Warren Rudman, who has since retired. The purpose of that report was to analyze the security at the laboratories at that particular time.

I will read a couple of extracts and findings from that report because I think they bear the credibility of what we are hearing from the Department of Energy. One of the findings stated:

More than 25 years worth of reports, studies and formal inquiries—by executive branch agencies, Congress, independent panels, and even the DOE itself—have identified a multitude of chronic counterintelligence problems at all of the weapons labs.
Critical security flaws... have been cited for inadequate and resolution... over and over and over... ad nauseam.

They haven’t been corrected.

Further, the report again was the Rudman report. The open-source information alone on the weapons laboratories overwhelmingly supports a troubling tendency to breach their security and counterintelligence operations have been seriously hobbled and relegated to low-priority status for decades.

That, again, is associated with the Wen Ho Lee security breach.

Finally, Senator Warren Rudman indicates:

The Department of Energy is a dysfunctional bureaucracy that has proven it is incapable of reforming itself. Accountability at DOE has been spread so thinly and erratically that it is now almost impossible to find.

Well, we heard this morning that the Secretary is going to appoint—or has appointed—our respected colleague, Senator Howard Baker, and a very distinguished Member, Lee Hamilton, to give a report on the findings as to the security adequacy at the labs. Well, I welcome this in one sense, and I reflect on it with some question in another, because clearly what Senator Rudman recommended in his report, "Science at its Best; Security at its Worst" was not followed by the Department of Energy.

The action taken by both the Senate and the House in the manner in which we proceeded with legislation to authorize an energy czar was objected to by the Secretary of Energy through the entire process, almost to the point of eluding congressional intent in the law, and the fact that others felt inclined to hold up his nomination until the very end of May, I think that reflects on the squeaky wheel theory. The wheel squeaks enough today, and we finally put our czar, Gen. John Gordon, in a responsible position.

But the barn door has been left open, and it is inconceivable to me that we have not had adequate explanations of how this could occur. You can go to the library and get a card, take out a book, and they know who took out the book. If you are overdue, you pay a penalty. But not in the Department of Energy secured area. They have their so-called management area, and they ask permission and get permission from one of the deputies to enter. They went to remove the two hard drive disks, and they found that they were gone; they weren’t there.

Now, what they did in the Department of Energy is interesting. They didn’t notify their senior officials. They simply moved over to another shelf where a duplication of these hard drives was available and they took those. Then, after the fire, they went back and searched the place, could not find it, and finally they reported it, I think, on May 24. It was a timeframe from May 7, when the fire started, and on May 24 a team went back and searched again, and then at about the end of May, they called the DOE and in early June the story broke.

Those are the facts up until now. When you hear the explanations, you just shake your head and say, how could this happen? And then, of course, the question we have are: Who might have this information? If they had it, what might they be able to do with it?

Some of these questions have to be responded to in a secure environment because of the national security interest. Some have said, well, the appropriators didn’t give them enough money to ensure a foolproof system. They asked for $35 million and I think they got $7 million. It doesn’t take $7 million to put in a foolproof checkout system. They don’t even have cameras in these secured areas. They don’t know who is going in and out—other than they have to have a certain security clearance to go in. But there is no checkout system. It is unbelievable.

We now are going to pursue this matter. As a consequence of the situation to date, clearly, the DOE and the labs have not been under control. I hope now that we have cleared the nomination, with the vote of 97-0, of the National Nuclear Security Administrator, that process can get underway. But there are a lot of questions that remain. The two missing hard drives contain secrets about every nuclear weapon in the world—just not ours. We should pursue this matter because clearly the buck has to stop somewhere.

When Congressmen Norman Dicks and Christopher Cox in their report concluded that China had design information—the Wen Ho Lee case—that should have been enough. The report by Senator Warren Rudman should have been an alarm, and the action by the Senate and the House to establish the energy czar should have been enough. But it wasn’t. Today, as I said, the squeaky wheel got some grease. We have Gen. John Gordon in the position, but we have a lot of questions unanswered and a lot of people who assured us that they bore the responsibility that everything was under control.

I must tell you that it was shocking and angering to watch an administration that recognized a problem and failed to do anything about it—or very little—and then to ignore a Congress that recognized the problem after extensive hearings and which passed legislation last year into law; and we have a Secretary of Energy who ignored it and openly denied that he would do it. And then for the Secretary not to show up for the hearing—I am not sure how we are to respond to it.

But I will tell you how the American people ought to respond to it. They ought to say: Mr. Secretary, you have failed and you have failed us in the security of our country. We ask that we find someone better to serve in that capacity.

That is what the American people ought to be saying. And I hope they will.

THE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have come to the floor for the next few minutes to talk about something that is very important to our country. Last week, I rose in defense of the second amendment to our Constitution. Why? Because it is under relentless attack at this moment by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. It is under relentless attack by the White House and has been now for nearly 8 solid years. They want to deny that there is a second amendment, or that there are legitimate rights under that amendment, and they simply want to control or shape what many Americans believe to be their constitutional right under the second amendment, and that is the right to own a firearm in this Nation.

The second amendment reads:

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

It is a simple amendment, but, oh, what a powerful force it brings; and, oh, what important emotions it engenders in our country.

The enemies of the right to keep and bear arms tell us that because the word "militia" is there, this amendment only protects the right of the Government to keep and bear arms.

If anyone in this body is a student of American history and understands the