

come home. So when that supplemental comes before the Senate I intend to offer an amendment, along with Senator AKAKA, the ranking member on the Veterans' Committee, to add \$2 billion to the supplemental to make sure our veterans get the services they need.

We cannot rely on rhetoric. We cannot rely on empty promises. We need to make sure that the part of the commitment we have when we go to war includes taking care of those men and women when they return home.

These proposals are not about growing the size of the Government. They are not about expanding what we owe. It is about keeping a promise. It is about living up to the promises we have made to those who have given so much to all of us. Our veterans deserve the best from us. S. 13, this legislation I just talked about, works to make sure those goals become a reality. We have a tremendous responsibility and we have a great opportunity in this Congress to keep the promise President Abraham Lincoln made 140 years ago, and that is to care for the veteran who has borne the battle, his widow and his orphan. Those words ring as true today as they did 140 years ago, and I intend in every way I can, both in my work on the Veterans Committee, my work on the Appropriations Committee, and my work on the floor, to keep the promise we gave to those who are serving us to make sure they are taken care of when they return home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority has 8½ minutes. The majority has 22½ minutes. We are in morning business.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 4 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. We are in morning business.

#### NOMINATION OF CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to support the nomination of Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State. Dr. Rice has served the President with distinction over the past 4 years as National Security Adviser, and I have complete confidence she will bring the same talents, energy, and vision we have witnessed thus far to her new job at the State Department's helm.

In many of her recent remarks and those of President Bush, Dr. Rice has emphasized the promotion of freedom and democracy as a hallmark of American foreign policy. Not only has Dr. Rice made democracy a centerpiece of her time at the White House, but also her life itself illustrates the final triumph of true democracy at home.

Dr. Rice grew up in Birmingham, AL, in the heart of the segregated South.

She has spoken movingly about her memory of the 1963 church bombing in her hometown. One of the innocent little girls who died there was a friend of hers.

Dr. Rice grew up in a time and place where America's founding ideals had not yet become reality for all of our citizens. The United States, a country built on the idea of freedom, was not yet a full democracy.

Perhaps it was this experience that led Dr. Rice to make the study and practice of political systems her life's work. After receiving her Ph.D. at the University of Denver, she joined Stanford University and quickly became identified as one of the world's leading scholars of the Soviet Union. We all know of her distinguished career since then.

Dr. Rice has the confidence of the President of the United States. Dr. Rice has the confidence of the majority of this Senate. We know, as many of her critics have admitted on this floor, she will be easily confirmed.

So I wonder why we are starting this new Congress with a protracted debate about a foregone conclusion. It cannot be for a lack of priorities because we surely have enough on our legislative plate this year. It can't be because Dr. Rice has suggested she has some flaw so fundamental that the Senate must block the President's choice. I can only conclude we are doing this for no other reason than because of lingering bitterness at the outcome of the elections.

We need to move on. The people of the United States made their choice last November and they expect their elected officials to govern accordingly.

When President Clinton was re-elected for his second term, I didn't share the policy views of some of the officials he nominated, but I do not recall going through protracted battles such as this. We all have varying policy views, but the President, in my view, has a clear right to put into place the team he believes will serve him best.

I believe this Nation is honored by the presence of Dr. Rice, by what she represents, by what she has achieved, and I believe she will be an enduring role model to all Americans, particularly Americans who are not of the majority in race in our country.

I believe Dr. Rice is a living example of what can happen in America. From a beginning in a segregated South to the Secretary of State of the most powerful nation in the world is a great American success story. I hope all my colleagues, at the completion of this overwhelming vote in favor of her confirmation, will celebrate this great American success story and all of us will look forward to her leadership of the Department of State, and working with her here in the Halls of Congress.

I yield the remainder of my time. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I understand we are in morning business and I have about 18 minutes; is that accurate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 17 minutes 15 seconds.

#### OUR LOSS IN IRAQ TODAY

Mr. BROWNBACK. I have an introduction of a bill I wish to talk about, but first I want to express our sympathy to the families of those who were lost in Iraq within the last 24 hours. There was a helicopter crash that took place. As I understand from the early news, 31 marines were killed in that helicopter crash. There were several other deaths in the last 24 hours leading up to this election in Iraq that takes place on Sunday. If we recall, there has been an increased level of violence taking place. We don't know the cause of this helicopter crash that took place, but we do know there was significant loss of life.

Our hearts and our prayers go out to the lost soldiers who stand in harm's way as we seek democracy, liberty, and freedom for the people of Iraq. Our heartfelt sympathies to the families, and our deepest dedication and devotion to those who continue to serve who are in harm's way.

I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that it be in order for us to take a moment of silence and prayer for those who have just lost their lives in Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, we will have a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

#### UNBORN CHILD PAIN AWARENESS ACT

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, these are difficult times but they are also times of opportunity. We will face on Sunday, with the vote in Iraq, difficulty, but also a time of opportunity for people to know democracy and freedom who have never known it before. Freedom, however, always comes at a price. We are paying for this opportunity for freedom with loss of life from our own country. Yet democracy and freedom is something for which we have fought for over 200 years.

I rise today to speak about something else we need to fight for. I speak of one of the most difficult debates we have had to discuss in this country: it is the debate on the issue of life and the moment that life begins. I am introducing today, with over 30 cosponsors, a bill that speaks to this critical issue. It is S. 51, the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. It has 31 cosponsors. This legislation, I believe, is strongly pro-woman, pro-child and pro-life, and