

sense because we just couldn't finish negotiations with the House.

But I am very hopeful that when we return in the lame duck that it is a lame duck and not a dead duck because I could get a lame duck hobbling out of here, and I can't take a dead duck home. We need to take something home that is alive and flapping to give these people homes, to restore these wetlands, and for heavens' sake, send some oil and gas to the industries in America that are really on the edge right now of whether to expand these refineries or not because China looks more promising every day.

If we don't give them hope, they are going to leave and jobs are going to be lost.

I see my good friend from Idaho who knows this issue well. He might want to take one of my minutes and add a thought about this because he has been a good partner on this issue. I would appreciate his words on this chart or anything he wants to talk about.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding. I will be very brief.

This is very important for all of us to listen to. Just because gas prices are falling at this moment, we should not walk away from an opportunity to continue to build reserves and known reserves in the gulf and other areas, for the U.S. Geological Survey says it is phenomenally plentiful. The well Senator LANDRIEU just talked about at the 28,000-foot level has contributed mightily to an unbelievable drop in gas prices over the last month and a half, coupled with the lack of storms. Yes, other things are going on. But the reality is that the American producer now knows less of their potential is not at risk because it is under the control of the United States. It has taken that \$20 risk figure off the top of a barrel of oil, dropping it into the low sixties range or high fifties range. That is what is reducing the price at the pump.

I thank the Senator from Louisiana for her continued effort. I hope this Senate and the House will recognize the potential of building U.S. domestic reserves that are safe, out of harm's way, out of the way of the political, fragile nature of other countries of the world.

I thank the Senator for her steadfastness. I and others will help her with this goal.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 5 minutes remaining.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I want to call my colleagues' attention to this chart which I had my office put together today. I thought it would be a good chart to leave with because maybe it will put a little energy underneath our efforts to get something done when we get back.

Production from the gulf coast is over 1 billion barrels of oil. The total production from Saudi Arabia and Ven-

ezuela together is 973 million barrels of oil.

I do not know if the Governors of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama want to shut down production. But if they do, there would be a real problem for the country. I know people might say that couldn't be done because you don't have jurisdiction over pipelines, and the Federal Government could operate that. I would hate to see the court battles that would ensue. We actually have one court case pending which was filed by the State of Louisiana alleging that the appropriate environmental standards have not been attended to. And the judge will rule on that in November.

No Governor other than Governor Blanco has taken that step, and no Governor has suggested it. I am not giving testimony that I have heard them even privately say it. But I can promise you that the people in the Gulf of Mexico are getting tired. Everywhere I go, people in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana say to me: Senator, why are we the only ones producing? And why when you go to Washington and ask them to just share these revenues with us they say no? Don't they know that we don't have any houses to live in? Don't they know our churches have been ruined? Don't they know our children don't have schools? What is wrong with Congress?

I am having a hard time explaining that.

For people who say the Senate bill doesn't do anything, I think 1 billion barrels of oil—almost equivalent to 60 percent of what OPEC contributes on a yearly basis—is a lot of oil.

Considering things aren't going real well in Venezuela these days, we might want to get this bill passed and help our industry and help our people.

In the last 4 minutes, I want to say in the spirit of cooperation that I filed a bill today on the issue of royalty recovery. This is an issue with the House of Representatives. It is an issue with us. It is an issue with the other House, and it is an issue with us. I thought maybe this would help everybody to see.

We can talk about it when we come back, of course.

These are the wells that were issued in 1998 and 1999 that did not have thresholds. There were over 1,000 of them. I am sorry I can't identify the 15 that are producing, but out of these there are only 15 that are producing. These are the ones which are producing and royalties are being generated because there was a mixup in the contract. When we get back we should resolve this issue. That is what my bill says, and it suggests how to do it.

Some of this money could go to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in the earlier years. Some could go to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and a lot of it could go to deficit reduction. We could reduce the debt on people and get a little head start on our coastal restoration, as well as do something for the Nation on land and water.

We could debate how the revenue should be shared, but I laid a bill down today to give us maybe a starting point for people who discuss how we might do that.

I will conclude with this: The Louisiana delegation cannot go home for Christmas without the WRDA bill and without the OCS bill. We are going to be here a long time until those bills are passed. We want to work with people, we want to be cooperative, and I filed a bill to solve this problem and meet the House halfway on this issue.

Then let's do something when we get back and work hard to get something out to the American people that could make at least the industry have a happy Christmas. Individual consumers might not feel the price of natural gas directly. But our industries and big and small businesses certainly do, and our farmers most certainly do. It would be a good Christmas present to give them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The next 15 minutes is allocated to the Republican Senators.

Who yields time?

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I yield back the Republican time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized for 15 minutes.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SALAZAR. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise tonight to speak to the so-called fence bill and ask my colleagues and urge them to oppose the construction of this fence in the way it has been proposed to the Senate.

I oppose the construction of this fence because at the end of the day this is not going to fix our borders. It is not going to deal with the lawlessness that we currently are having to deal with with respect to immigration, and it is not in the long-term interests of the United States of America.

For me, I may be the No. 100 U.S. Senator, but I have heroes on both sides of the aisle.

I remember Ronald Reagan when he went to the Berlin Wall and he told Mr. Gorbachev that he should take down the Berlin Wall. He was about taking down walls and bringing communities together.

I remember John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a person who inspired my whole life in politics and our country. I remember him working on creating the Alliance for Progress with the notion being that the Western Hemisphere would be a much more successful hemisphere if we were able to work with nations that were all a part of this hemisphere. That Alliance for Progress by President Kennedy is still celebrated throughout the United States and throughout Latin America because of his vision that we would bring communities together. Yet what we are doing today on this national security issue of immigration reform is abandoning

principles and allowing politics to triumph.

This body tonight, by voting for what I expect will be successful passage of this bill, has allowed politics to triumph over what is in the best long-term interests of this country and over the principles that we worked on together to try to bring about comprehensive immigration reform.

I stood with a number of my colleagues on the Republican side putting together what was a comprehensive immigration reform package. We had leaders on the Democratic side who have inspired me for ages, such as Senator KENNEDY, Senator DURBIN, and Senator REID standing with people such as Senator CRAIG and Senator MCCAIN and Senator GRAHAM and others to try to pull together comprehensive immigration reform. At the end of the day, we were able to get that comprehensive immigration reform. The President lauded it because it was a good bill. It was legislation that dealt with creating a system of law and order, that would have taken us out of the lawlessness we currently have in our country with respect to immigration and have created a comprehensive system to deal with this major issue of national security, economic security and moral values.

Our legislation dealt with border security. Our legislation dealt with the enforcement of our immigration laws. Our legislation dealt in a realistic way with the penalties and the registration that would apply to the 12 million or so people who are here in this country undocumented today. It was legislation that was comprehensive in nature.

Yes, we were proud we had Senators such as GRAHAM, MCCAIN, SPECTER, REID, KENNEDY and a whole lot of other Members who stood behind this comprehensive approach to immigration reform.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SALAZAR. I yield.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I support, as did the Senator from Colorado, tough border security. I voted, as did the Senator, for an amendment in the context of an immigration reform bill that would have authorized for Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff 370 miles of fence based on what he told the Senate he needed. Building some fencing as part of a comprehensive reform bill makes sense.

Would the Senator agree, we cannot take a piecemeal approach to fixing our borders?

Mr. SALAZAR. I agree with my friend from Nevada that, indeed, Secretary Chertoff and others have said that a fence by itself will not deal with the problems we are facing in immigration.

Secretary Chertoff's statement was, in his words:

In fact, building a fence in the desert would have the somewhat ironic result of requiring us to put more bodies right up against the border because it would be a less efficient way to deal with it.

So, yes, the Secretary of Homeland Security himself, along with the Attorney General of the United States, has taken a position that this is the wrong way to go.

Mr. President, as we put together this legislation, I want to quickly review what it is we did as we went through the legislation.

First of all, with respect to border security, we were tough on our border, but we were substance. We said we would add 12,000 new Border Patrol agents.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say my friend from Colorado, we have an important agreement we would like to put before the Senate. I ask the Senator from Colorado allow me to interrupt him.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time remains.

Mr. REID. Yes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Does the Senator object?

Mr. SALAZAR. No.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at 9:10 this evening, the pending amendment, No. 5036, be withdrawn, the bill be read the third time, and Senator SALAZAR be recognized for 5 minutes, Senator BINGAMAN for 5 minutes, Senator CRAIG for 5 minutes, Senator REID for 3 minutes, Senator FRIST for 3 minutes, and the Senate proceed immediately to a vote on passage, with no intervening action or debate; and I further ask consent that following that vote, the Senate proceed as under the rule to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur on S. 403; I further ask consent if cloture is not invoked, the Senate proceed immediately to the conference report to accompany H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Conference Report, and there be 5 minutes equally divided for debate prior to a vote on adoption of the conference report.

I further ask consent that if cloture is invoked on the motion to concur to S. 403, the pending amendments be withdrawn and the Senate vote on the motion, with no intervening action or debate; and further, the Senate proceed as above to the Homeland Security conference report.

I also ask following the vote on the Homeland Security conference report, Senator LAUTENBERG be in control of 10 minutes, Senator COLLINS for 5 minutes, Senator STEVENS for 5 minutes; the Senate proceed to a vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4954, the port security conference report, if the papers are received from the House and they are identical to those at the desk currently, with no intervening action or debate; further, I ask that if the papers have not arrived from the House, then upon receipt of those papers, the Senate proceed to its consideration, again, only if those papers are identical to those at the desk

currently, then the conference report be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

I further ask consent that following the vote on the port security conference report, H.R. 5441, if port security has not arrived, then the Senate proceed to consideration of H. Con. Res. 483, the adjournment resolution; provided further, that Senator LEVIN be recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes, and following that time, the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as a Senator, I ask the Senator to read again what the Senate is doing with the port security bill.

Mr. FRIST. The Senate proceed to the vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4954, the port security conference report, if the papers are received from the House and they are identical to those that are at the desk currently, with no intervening action or debate; further, I ask that if the papers have not arrived from the House, then upon receipt of those papers the Senate proceed to its consideration, again, only if those papers are identical to those at the desk currently, then the conference report be agreed to, with the motion to reconsider laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. I appreciate the courtesy.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me briefly outline—because that wording is very complicated—what that means. At approximately 9:30 we will begin voting and we will have a vote on the border fence. Following that, we have a cloture motion to concur with the House on child custody. That also would be a rollcall vote. Following that, there is a short period of debate on Homeland Security, and we have a third rollcall vote on Homeland Security. Following that, port security will be dealt with, which should not require a rollcall vote, and the adjournment resolution, which should not require a rollcall vote.

Thus, we would have three rollcall votes in this unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. It took 2 minutes to read this but it took a lot longer than that to get the 2 minutes in writing.

I appreciate everyone's cooperation, Democrats and Republicans. This is not a perfect end of this session. However, I think it shows there has been tremendous cooperation today, and we will have more to say at a later time. Thanks, everyone.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized. The Senator 9 minutes and 19 seconds.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, before the unanimous consent request from my colleagues, I was talking about