

show you a picture. I do not have this one blown up. It is a picture of orphans looking out of an orphanage. You can see their emaciated bodies. The German physician, a few years back, who was going around and treating some people in North Korea snuck out pictures very similar to this—not very happy. What about the thousands of refugees who flee to China, many of whom are trafficked into the sex slave trade, while others get repatriated back to North Korea by Chinese authorities to face torture, execution, or a trip to Camp 22? These are issues that by law must be addressed in these negotiations under the North Korean Human Rights Act, signed under this administration, which declares it so.

Furthermore, does anyone really believe we can trust Kim Jung Il to be truthful with these declarations that he is handing us when he has no qualms about treating his own citizens in such a barbaric way? There is a report in the Washington Post that the documents he handed over to us about plutonium and their plutonium plant actually had traces of uranium on the very documents themselves—on the documents.

So while we are dealing with plutonium and we are delisting them as a State sponsor of terrorism, the documents they hand over to verify this have traces of uranium on the documents. Is that mind boggling? We are saying we are going to delist you because you dealt with plutonium, but we are not going to require anything on uranium and we are going to waive the Glenn amendment, push the Congress to waive the Glenn amendment for you detonating a nuclear device, when you built a nuclear reactor in another state-sponsored terrorism country of Syria. We are not going to require anything on that, and we are going to waive these sanctions of Trading with the Enemy Act when you are giving missile technology to Iran which has missiles pointed at Israel and other allies of ours in that region and possibly, in the future, to have range to the United States.

I am stunned. The things we are saying and doing are absolutely counter to the facts on the ground.

I am happy we are dealing with plutonium, but for what we are giving up—“axis of evil” member to be scratched from the list—and we don’t have anything on uranium. We don’t have anything on human rights. We don’t have anything on missile technology being shipped out to Iran, of all places; we don’t have anything on the nuclear reactor that was built in Syria, and we are going to waive all of these things? Meanwhile, the people die.

This seems like a very bad deal to me, but that is not the biggest reason I am mad. The biggest reason I am mad is because of people still getting killed and we end up with blood on our hands when we have the chance to be able to deal with this differently.

I hope we will start to take into consideration this picture of these or-

phans. I hope we start to take into consideration uranium and what is happening in Iran, what is happening in Syria, and that we don’t invite North Korea back into the fair standing of countries with what they continue to do.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### DELAY OF IRAQI PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last February, the Iraqi Government set October 1, 2008, as the date for provincial elections to occur. These elections are critical to U.S. and Iraqi efforts to bring about reconciliation in their country. For instance, those elections will give members of the Sunni community, many of whom did participate in the previous rounds of provincial elections, a chance to vote for fair representation in Iraqi’s provincial councils. Unfortunately, the provincial elections law, which is the enabling legislation needed for these elections to take place, remains stalled in the Iraqi Council of Representatives and will likely delay provincial elections by at least several months.

The administration’s silence on the Iraqi Government’s failure to adopt election laws that were promised in February—and which set a date of October 1 for those elections—is disturbing, and it is the exact wrong way to send a message to the Iraqi leaders. Many of us have tried repeatedly to get this administration to shift responsibility to the Iraqi leaders for their own future, since there is a broad consensus that there is no military solution and only a political settlement among the Iraqis can end the conflict. The administration, however, has repeatedly missed opportunities to shift this burden to the Iraqis and appears willing to miss another opportunity.

President Bush indicated in February that he was confident that the Iraqi Government was “going to continue to work to make sure that their stated objective of getting provincial elections done by October of 2008 will happen.” And after meeting the Iraqi leaders in Baghdad in April, Secretary Rice said, “They know that provincial elections need to be held before October 1, as has been the announcement.” The administration is well aware that the failure of the Council of Representatives to pass a provincial elections law in the near future is likely to cause the previously established October 1 date for Iraqi provincial elections to be postponed.

The recent GAO report, entitled “Securing, Stabilizing and Rebuilding Iraq,” paints an even bleaker picture. According to that GAO report, it is likely to take 4 to 8 months to prepare for elections after a provincial election law is passed. That means that even if this law was passed next week, the October 1 deadline is unlikely to be met.

Ambassador Crocker said on April 10:

The way forward for a stable Iraq lies as much through successful elections, in my view, over the long term, as it does through the necessary application of force against those who resist the state.

Where is the pressure on the Iraqi Government to keep their commitment to an October election? Where is the administration’s message of disappointment? Iraqi leaders are likely to read the administration’s silence on their failure to act as a shrug of our shoulders.

We have made some security gains in Iraq, but progress is spotty on most political benchmarks set by the Iraqis for themselves, including provincial elections. The administration’s silence on this issue needs to end. It needs to make clear to the Iraqi Government that further delay in passing the provincial election law is totally unacceptable.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, on Friday, July 4, the United States will conduct the 232nd celebration of Independence Day. On this day, we commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Flags will fly and rousing music will be heard before the faint whiff of gunpowder and thunderous boom of fireworks reminds us of the great struggle that took place to set our Nation upon its course through history.

Amid all the parades, fireworks, and backyard barbecues, it is worthwhile to consider the document itself. The Declaration of Independence is an amazing and powerful manuscript. Phrases in its opening paragraphs are familiar to most Americans: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” That line may well be the most recognizable sentence in American political history. It is certainly among the top 10.

As famous as the phrase “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness,” is, however, it is not the first sentence of