

care for these refugee children, President Obama must end the deferred action program.

We just read some legislation on the floor a few moments ago. That is what it is—no money for these poor boys and girls until, I guess, you deport them—hundreds of thousands of people who are here because they deserve to be here.

Republicans, in attacks such as this, are resorting to ransoming children to get their way, and that is shameful. The assistant Republican leader, the senior Senator from Texas, who has authored legislation to prevent any meaningful hearing process for migrant children, appears to support the junior Senator's plan. The bill put forward by the senior Senator from Texas implements a process that will send these children back to dangerous places without some minimal concern for their health and well-being. If people were treating animals the way these boys and girls are being treated, they wouldn't send an animal back to this, let alone a little boy or girl.

Neither of the plans put forward by the junior or senior Senators from Texas address the underlying issues. And what is the real issue?

The Presiding Officer has lived in South America. He is one of the few Senators who speaks fluent Spanish. He is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

So what is the real issue?

The Presiding Officer could tell us what the real issue is if he were able to speak now.

Why are these children arriving at our southern border. As Nobel laureate Oscar Arias, who was President of Costa Rica and did a good job in an overwhelmingly bad situation, said yesterday in the Washington Post: "The root cause is the violence and poverty that make these children's lives at home intolerable."

We hear that from the schoolboy's message to us. Deporting DREAMers already here or speeding up the process for sending children who need protection back to their crime-ravaged homes does not address the root cause.

In fact, it will only break up families who are already here and ensure that we see these migrant children again in a few months if they survive, because they are not going to stay there. Many of them won't survive, but if they do, they will try to come back again until things become tolerable. Instead of playing a game of hot potato with thousands of innocent children, let's address the pressing needs we have now, which is to treat these kids humanely.

I have had the good fortune of traveling in every country in South America except Belize and Uruguay. Cuba is sending huge numbers of physicians all over South and Central America; China has a lot of money and projects there.

We—because of the stringency of what is happening with our appropriations bills—took months and months

to get a Peace Corps Director. The Peace Corps helps, but without the Director it was kind of wobbly. The Agency for International Development has a good program, but it doesn't have much money at all. We do very little to help those countries.

We have Venezuela. Chavez ships hundreds and hundreds of teachers and oil to those countries, and we do nothing. For a fraction of what we spend on our border, we could help those countries stabilize.

We need to get resources to our Border Patrol agents and others who are caring for these children from Central America. We need judges to hear these kids' cases and decide whether they need protection or need to be sent back home.

The world is watching how this great democracy of ours responds to this crisis. Congress must act now and give the administration the funding it needs to temporarily house and feed these boys and girls and reinforce the infrastructure to process thousands of asylum deportation claims.

We had a big show not long ago where we provided \$35 billion to help veterans. We have spent trillions of dollars in two wars—unpaid for, by the way. That is what President Bush wanted, and that is what he got. He squandered the surplus we had—a surplus of over 10 years when he took office that was trillions of dollars. But now we are being asked to spend a few dollars to take care of these people who have come back in need—as our veterans. Senator SANDERS has been working for well more than 1 month to get them to try to agree to something, and it looks to me as if they are going to come back with nothing.

The conference has not been completed. Why? Because they have to spend money on these people on whom they were glad to spend money to take them to war. But now they are back. They are missing limbs. They have many post-traumatic stress problems, a lot of medical issues, and no money is there.

I am afraid that is where we are headed with this other situation. I am afraid we are headed to the place where either Republicans get to deport all these DREAMers—what the Texas Senators obviously want—or just give these kids no hearings at all and just shove them back. It is not fair.

The American people want these kids to be treated fairly. If the kids don't belong here, let's have somebody decide they don't belong here and have somebody do what needs to be done. But to just ignore the issue and run out of money—what do we do?

What we should do is legislate. We are not doing that.

I have said on the floor a number of times—I repeat—for 5½ years Republicans have opposed everything that President Obama has wanted—everything. That is what they set out to do 3 days after he was elected, and they have stuck by that. Scores of ambas-

sadors' positions are not filled, and legislation has gone wanting.

They want to be able to show there is a Democrat in the White House and Democrats control the Senate, but the American people are not realizing a small minority can stop us from doing everything—and that is what they have done with the so-called filibuster, hundreds of them. I only hope this November people will respond, as I believe they will, and say: This is enough.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 45-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUNAR LANDING

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, 45 years ago yesterday the entire world was riveted to their television sets—often a television image that was grainy, black and white, and flickering—as we heard the report, "The eagle has landed." Then we saw Neil Armstrong come down the ladder of the lunar lander, and that is when he made the famous statement, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

In the context of that day 45 years ago, unless one was of sufficient youth to not have a memory, anyone will remember exactly where they were and what they were doing, because that was an extraordinary time for the entire planet. This Senator at the time was an Army lieutenant. At the lift-off 4 days earlier, I had been in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and had gone to the embassy asking if they had a television so I could watch the lift-off in my hometown area of Brevard County where, from this launch pad, my family had homesteaded under the old Homestead Act in 1913, working the land for years, eking out a living which, under the Homestead Act, was a way of populating the country—particularly the westward expansion but that was also the southward expansion, into unsettled lands like Florida. I have a

copy of that deed of 160 acres of land, signed by Woodrow Wilson to my grandparents in 1917. That land sits today at the north end of the space shuttle runway at the Kennedy Space Center. It is only a few miles from the launch pad where Apollo 11 launched, and years later in the early part of the Space Shuttle Program I had the privilege of launching with the crew of STS-61C.

But at that moment 45 years ago, I had gone into the embassy in Belgrade, and they did not have a television set that would show the lift-off. I asked if there was any way of getting a communication. They said: Go outside of the city on those high hills and stick up your shortwave radio antenna and get the BBC from London. My friends and I did exactly that. When that rocket, the Saturn V, lifted off, there were three young Americans screaming at the top of our lungs: "Go, baby, go."

Four days later, I was on my way back to the United States and was staying overnight in a London hotel. I got the desk to call me in the middle of the night, somewhere around 3:00, and turned on that flickering black-and-white television set to see Neil Armstrong come down the ladder and issue that famous statement.

Today at the Kennedy Space Center is a ceremony commemorating that event 45 years ago yesterday. I happened to bump into Buzz Aldrin yesterday at the Orlando airport as he was on his way to join with Mike Collins, who was the third of the three Apollo astronauts. They are there today to dedicate the operations and checkout building at the Kennedy Space Center to be named for the commander of that mission and the first one to set foot on the Moon—Neil Armstrong. It is that very same building where those astronauts were in quarantine before they went to the launch pad, it is that very same building where so many of the space missions have been prepared, and it is that very same building, now named for Neil Armstrong, which is preparing the spacecraft that will be the forerunner of taking us in our next journey to another celestial body—this time the planet Mars.

That spacecraft, Orion, will be tested at the end of this year in a ballistic reentry, going out some 30,000 miles, to come back in at a very steep descent to test the new protective materials on the heat shield. In the old days we had an ablative material on the blunt end of the capsule that would burn up on reentry coming through the fiery heat of reentry, 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Part of the heat shield would burn up. Today, they have much more high-technology techniques that will repel the heat in order to save the crew, and that test will come at the end of the year.

When we shut down the Space Shuttle Program, most Americans felt as though the human space program was shut down. That is not the case. We have an orbiting national laboratory

that is part of the International Space Station, with two American astronauts and an international crew—a total of six astronauts onboard, doing research right now, as they have been.

As a matter of fact, to give a visual mind's-eye idea of how big this International Space Station is, it is 120 yards long. Visualize from one goalpost and one end zone to the other goalpost, and that is how big the International Space Station is, and six humans are on board right now.

We are already developing the rockets that are delivering cargo—American rockets—and those rockets are now in a competition in NASA as to which ones will be selected to carry humans, and then all of the redesign, the redundancies of systems, the escape mechanisms, will be incorporated in order to make it safe for humans. We are expecting that first American launch of Americans onboard American rockets to be in 2017. Then the American people will realize that we have been in space all along.

We can speak of the wonders of our space program—the Hubble space telescope that has been on orbit carried by a human crew that has now unlocked the secrets of the universe. The follow-on telescope named after the first NASA Administrator James Webb will peer back in time to the very beginning of the universe and will bring us additional knowledge about how we got here and how it all started in this incredibly infinite thing called the universe, of which the cosmos as we look out is so large we can't comprehend it.

Our space program is vigorous, and now we will move into a new era starting right there in the building that is being dedicated today in memory of Neil Armstrong, a building that will assemble the spacecraft called Orion which will launch with Americans in 2021 for the beginning of a mission that will capture a distant object—an asteroid—fly to it, rendezvous, explore it, as we start the systems, the methods, building and creating the new technologies that will then allow us to take a human crew all the way to the planet Mars, land them, and bring them back safely to planet Earth.

So this is a day that we remember, and we remember an astronaut who was taken way too early from us, because Neil was only 82 years old.

Although of the original seven, which Neil was not a part of, we only have one left; that is, John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, a former Senator of this body in his nineties. He looks terrific.

After the Mercury Program came the Gemini Program and then came the Apollo Program, and that is the celebration that has just occurred, celebrating 45 years. It is hard to believe it has been that long. Yet that was a day the world stopped as they gazed, fixed on their television sets, as a human from planet Earth set foot on another celestial body. That was quite an accomplishment, but there is a lot more to come.

I yield the floor, and I 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.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BRING JOBS HOME ACT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to join with Senator WALSH from Montana as he is leading us in the effort to pass the Bring Jobs Home Act, which is pretty basic in terms of where our values and priorities are in terms of our tax policy.

I know we are in the process of determining whether to bring that up. Hopefully we will do that. The American people say it is a no-brainer to bring up this bill and pass it. The reason, first of all, would be the fact that people understand that we need a middle class. We essentially started the middle class 100 years ago. We started it with some pretty basic policies in my State in 1914 when Henry Ford decided to invest in Detroit and Michigan and America and double the salary of his employees so that they could afford to buy his automobiles. He was really doubling down on America and on manufacturing in America. We have seen multiple ways in which that took off and literally created the middle class of our country.

Today we see the middle class under assault, folks working hard trying to hold on. People who felt in the past that if they worked really hard they could get into the middle class now feel as if the system is rigged against them.

We are really in a fight as to whether we are going to move forward and have a strong middle class. Every other country wants what we have. Too many countries have a few very wealthy people and a lot of extremely poor people, and they envy the middle-class economic engine we have had in this country.

As we look at how we move forward to keep and expand the middle class, we have to look for ways in which we can support our workers and our businesses that are investing in America. I believe our workers can outcompete anybody as long as the rules are fair.

There are a lot of ways we need to deal with the rules, but right now we have a tax code that really puts a thumb on the scales against our workers. At this point in time, after the last 10 years where we have actually seen 2.4 million jobs shipped overseas, we still have a tax code where American taxpayers are footing the bill for this movement, which is stunning. I think every time I have talked to people about the fact that when a company packs up and moves, the workers, the