Tennessee and Kentucky to look at the issues faced by military parents raising children. Senator CHAMBLISS did the same in Georgia, and Senators DODD and BEN NELSON will do the same in their respective home States of Connecticut and Nebraska.

Later this month, we will have a joint hearing in Washington of the Subcommittee on Children and Families, which I chair, and the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Armed Services Committee, which Senator CHAMBLISS chairs. Senators DODD and NELSON are the ranking Democrats. That joint hearing is to focus on military families raising children.

Our military has dropped from 3 million to 1.4 million, so we have fewer people in the Armed Services, but we have more missions; we have fewer soldiers; we have more women as a part of the military; we have more military spouses working; we have longer deployments; we have more military children. As a result, we need to be thinking about the families at home as we think about the warriors overseas. I wanted the full Senate to know that four Senators and two subcommittees are addressing these issues.

I think that makes it even more important that the leadership on the Republican and Democratic sides find a way to fix the problem that occurred with the child tax credit in the recently enacted Tax Bill.

President Bush had recommended that we increase from $600 to $1,000 the child tax credit to help parents raising children, including families that make $10,500 to $26,625. Refundability for these lower income families is to be increased from 10 to 15 percent in 2005 under the 2001 Tax Bill. The full Senate voted for that to be accelerated to 2003 and 2004 when it passed its version of the Tax Bill. In the final version of the Tax Bill, those between $10,500 and $26,625 were left out. Some of those families left out of the Tax Bill are serving in our military.

It was not the intention of the Senate to do that, I don't believe. I doubt if most Members of the House want that result. That is why on Tuesday I cosponsored Senator GRASSLEY's bill to fix the problem, and I am prepared to vote for any reasonable proposal in the Senate that the leadership can negotiate in the next few days to make it clear that our Senate and our Congress put a priority on parents raising children.

I thank the Chair.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, morning business is now closed.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 14, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 14) to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Domenici/Bingaman Amendment No. 840, to reauthorize Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), weatherization assistance, and State energy programs.

Domenici (for Gregg) Amendment No. 841 (to Amendment No. 840), to express the sense of the Senate regarding the reauthorization of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981.

Domenici (for Frist) Amendment No. 850, to eliminate methyl tertiary butyl ether from the United States fuel supply, to increase production and use of renewable fuel, and to increase the Nation's energy independence.

Schumer/Clinton Amendment No. 853 (to Amendment No. 850), to exclude Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts I, IV, and V from the renewable fuel program.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Under the previous order, the Senator from California, Mrs. BOXER, is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 854

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of myself, Senator LUGAR, and Senator CANTWELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] proposes an amendment numbered 854.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To promote the use of cellulosic biomass ethanol derived from agricultural residue)

On page 8, strike lines 16 through 19 and insert the following:

''(4) CELLULOSIC BIOMASS ETHANOL.—For the purpose of paragraph (2), 1 gallon of cellulosic biomass ethanol—

''(A) shall be considered to be the equivalent of 1.5 gallons of renewable fuel; or

''(B) if the cellulosic biomass is derived from agricultural residue, shall be considered to be the equivalent of 2.5 gallons of renewable fuel.''

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am very delighted to offer this amendment on behalf of myself, Senator LUGAR, and Senator CANTWELL. I think it is quite a pro-ethanol amendment because what we are trying to do here is encourage the development of ethanol that is produced from agricultural residues.

This amendment will, in fact, promote the production of agricultural residue ethanol. I want to tell my colleagues why this is important. I believe that biomass ethanol derived from agricultural residue could be a significant source of ethanol in California and also throughout the United States. Every State has agricultural waste, including those producing corn.

I hope my colleagues who have the production of corn, wheat, sugarcane, rice, barley, beets, or oats in their States will realize this amendment is very important to them. I also believe the use of agricultural residue ethanol will make it easier for many of our States—certainly for California—to meet an ethanol mandate without price spikes and gasoline shortages as it increases the flexibility that the country has to meet this mandate.

What is agricultural residue ethanol? I am sure if people are watching, they are thinking: This cannot be interesting. To me, it is very interesting because it is fuel made from the fibrous portion of plants, as is ethanol, but it differs from conventional ethanol in the following significant ways.

First, the manufacturing process does not consume fossil fuels but rather uses plant byproducts and waste to create the energy to run the process. So, in a time in our history when we are trying to lessen our dependence on fossil fuel, I think this amendment is quite an important statement for us to make. I am very proud that Senator LUGAR agrees because he is someone with much experience in this area.

Second, the raw material does not compete as a food source for humans and is available today based on existing farm practices.

Third, it uses existing waste products, thus decreasing disposal needs.

Ethanol made from agricultural residue, such as rice, wheat straw, and sugarcane waste, can be locally produced and does not require that corn and other commodities be grown just to make ethanol.

What we are talking about is using the residue, not growing food just to produce ethanol at a time when we are throwing food away because we have an overabundance in many of these areas. And, then we have been very energy inefficient by using the fossil fuel to develop the ethanol. What we are saying is the waste of agricultural materials is going to be put to good use.

Is this a pie-in-the-sky idea? No, it is not. In 1999, Sacramento Valley produced enough rice straw waste—500,000 tons of which is burned in the field—to