roads, schools, defense, food safety, environmental protection—all of it, every single penny is borrowed money. We do not have a dime to spend above and beyond the dimes we have to spend by law. If that is not a fiscal crisis, I do not know what is.

The Democrats' solution to this crisis is simple: raise the debt limit—raise the debt limit—so we can maintain the status quo. In fact, the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers said in a speech yesterday that it would be ''quite insane'' to do anything about the deficit while increasing the debt ceiling. That from the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers yesterday.

The problem with that is it is not a solution. It is the avoidance of a solution, and that is not what the American people want. The American people spoke loudly and clearly in November. They want to see changes around here. Washington is mortgaging their future and their children's future by spending too much. They did not speak out last November because they expected Republicans to come here and raise taxes. They sent Republicans here to get our fiscal house in order, and that is what we intend to do.

Americans are still outraged that Washington did not do something to prevent the last financial crisis—a crisis most people did not see coming. Failing to prevent one that every one of us knows is coming is, of course, totally inexcusable.

So my message has been clear: Failing to do something about the debt would be far worse in the long run than failing to raise the debt limit, and that is why I am repeating my plea to the Democrats this morning: The time to avert this crisis is right now. The window is closing. We cannot raise the debt ceiling, as the President has requested, without major spending cuts now.

Some have suggested we use triggers. Well, the triggers have already been pulled. What good is a fire alarm that goes off after the building burns down? Agreeing to a trigger is to deny this crisis. We need to face this problem now—not tomorrow, not after the President leaves office, not after the markets collapse, not after hell breaks loose, not after we lose another 3 million jobs and the housing market collapses again—now, right now. Anything less would be a dereliction of duty and a signal to the world that America does not have the will to fix its problems. Republicans refuse to accept that.

That has been my message all along. That is a message we will be taking down to the White House later this morning.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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 for debate only until 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for the duration of my remarks.

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

USE OF TORTURE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, the successful end of the 10-year manhunt to bring Osama bin Laden to justice has appropriately heightened the Nation's appreciation for the diligence, patriotism, and courage of our Armed Forces and our intelligence community. They are a great credit and inspiration to the country that has asked so much of them and, like all Americans, I am in their debt.

But their success has also reignited debate over whether the so-called enhanced interrogation techniques of enemy prisoners, including waterboarding, were instrumental in locating bin Laden and whether they are necessary and justifiable means for securing valuable information that might help prevent future terrorist attacks against us and our allies and lead to the capture or killing of those who would perpetrate them. Or are they, and should they be, prohibited by our conscience and laws as torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

I believe some of these practices—especially waterboarding, which is a mock execution, and thus to me indisputably torture—are and should be prohibited in a nation that is exceptional in its defense and advocacy of human rights. I believe they are a violation of the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, the Military Commissions Act of 2006, and Common Article Three of the Geneva Conventions, all of which forbid cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of all captured combatants, whether they wear the uniform of a country or are essentially stateless.

I opposed waterboarding and similar so-called enhanced interrogation techniques before Osama bin Laden was brought to justice, and I oppose them now. I do not believe they are necessary to our success in our war against terrorists, as the advocates of these techniques claim they are.

Even more importantly, I believe that if America uses torture, it could someday result in the torture of American combatants. Yes, I know al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations do not share our scruples about the treatment of enemy combatants, and have and will continue to subject American soldiers and anyone they capture to the cruelest mistreatment imaginable. But we must bear in mind the likelihood that someday we will be involved in a more conventional war against a state and not a terrorist movement or insurgency and be careful that we do not set a standard that another country could use to justify their mistreatment of our prisoners.

Lastly, it is difficult to overstate the damage that any practice of torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment by Americans does to our national character and historical reputation—to our standing as an exceptional nation among the countries of the world. It is too grave to justify the use of these interrogation techniques. America has made its progress in the world not only by avidly pursuing our geopolitical interests, but by persuading and inspiring other nations to embrace the political values that distinguish us. As I have said many times before, and still maintain, this is not about the terrorists. It is about us.

I understand the reasons that govern the decision to approve these interrogation methods, and I know those who approved them and those who employed them in the interrogation of captured terrorists were admirably dedicated to protecting the American people from harm. I know they were determined to keep faith with the victims of terrorism and to prove to our enemies that the United States would pursue justice tirelessly, relentlessly, and successfully, no matter how long it took. I know their responsibilities were grave and urgent, and the strain of their duty was considerable. I admire their dedication and love of country. But I dispute that it was right to use these methods, which I do not believe were in the best interests of justice or our security or the ideals that define us and which we have sacrificed much to defend.

I do not believe anyone should be prosecuted for having used these techniques in the past, and I agree that the administration should state definitively that no one will be. As one of the authors of the Military Commissions Act, which I believe prohibits waterboarding and other ''enhanced interrogation techniques,'' we wrote into the language of the law that no one who used them before the enactment of the law should be prosecuted. I do not think it is helpful or wise to revisit that policy.

Many advocates of these techniques have asserted their use on terrorists in our custody, particularly Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, revealed the trail to bin Laden—a trail which had gone cold in recent years but would now lead to his destruction. The former Attorney General of the United States, Michael Mukasey, recently claimed that ''the intelligence that led to bin Laden . . . began with a disclosure from

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who broke like a dam under the pressure of harsh interrogation techniques that included waterboarding. He loosed a torrent of information—including eventually the nickname of a trusted courier of bin Laden.'' That is false.

With so much misinformation being fed into such an essential public debate as this one, I asked the Director of Central Intelligence, Leon Panetta, for the facts, and I received the following information:

The trail to bin Laden did not begin with a disclosure from Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who was waterboarded 183 times. We did not first learn from Khalid Sheikh Mohammed the real name of bin Laden's courier, or his alias, Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti—the man who ultimately enabled us to find bin Laden. The first mention of the name Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti, as well as a description of him as an important member of al-Qaida, came from a detainee held in another country. The United States did not conduct this detainee's interrogation, nor did we render him to that country for the purpose of interrogation. We did not learn Abu Ahmed's real name or alias as a result of waterboarding or any ''enhanced interrogation technique'' used on a detainee in U.S. custody. None of the three detainees who were waterboarded provided Abu Ahmed's real name, his whereabouts, or an accurate description of his role in al-Qaida.

In fact, not only did the use of ''enhanced interrogation techniques'' on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed not provide us with key leads on bin Laden's courier, Abu Ahmed, it actually produced false and misleading information. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed specifically told his interrogators that Abu Ahmed had moved to Peshawar, got married, and ceased his role as an al-Qaida facilitator—which was not true, as we now know. All we learned about Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti through the use of waterboarding and other ''enhanced interrogation techniques'' against Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was the confirmation of the already known fact that the courier existed and used an alias.

I have sought further information from the staff of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and they confirmed for me that, in fact, the best intelligence gained from a CIA detainee—information describing Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti's real role in al-Qaida and his true relationship to Osama bin Laden—was obtained through standard, noncoercive means, not through any ''enhanced interrogation technique.''

In short, it was not torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees that got us the major leads that ultimately enabled our intelligence community to find Osama bin Laden. I hope former Attorney General Mukasey will correct his misstatement. It is important that he do so because we are again engaged in this important debate, with much at stake for America's security and reputation. Each side should make its own case but do so without making up its own facts.

For my part, I would oppose any legislation, if any should be proposed, that is intended to authorize the administration to return to the use of waterboarding or other methods of interrogation that I sincerely believe are torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading, and as such unworthy of and injurious to our country. This debate is ongoing, but I do not believe it will lead to a change in current policy prohibiting these methods.

Perhaps this is a debate for the history books. But it is still important because Americans in a future age, as well as their leaders, might face these same questions. We should do our best to provide them a record of our debates and decisions that is notable not just for its passion but for its deliberativeness and for opinions that were formed by facts, and formed with scrupulous care by both sides for the security of the American people and the success of the ideals we cherish. We have a duty to leave future American generations with a history that will offer them not confusion but instruction as they face their crises and challenges and try to lead America safely and honorably through them. Both sides cannot be right, of course, but both sides can be honest, diligent, and sincere.

Let me briefly elaborate my reasons for opposing the return to these interrogation policies.

Obviously, to defeat our enemies we need intelligence, but intelligence that is reliable. We should not torture or treat inhumanely terrorists we have captured. I believe the abuse of prisoners harms, not helps, our war effort. In my personal experience, the abuse of prisoners sometimes produces good intelligence but often produces bad intelligence because under torture a person will say anything he thinks his captors want to hear—whether it is true or false—if he believes it will relieve his suffering. Often, information provided to stop the torture is deliberately misleading, and what the advocates of cruel and harsh interrogation techniques can never prove is that we could not have gathered the same intelligence through other more humane means—as a review of the facts provides solid reason to be confident that we can. The costs of assuming otherwise can be hugely detrimental.

It has been reported, and the staff of the Senate Intelligence Committee confirms for me, that a man named Ibn al-Sheikh al-Libi had been captured by the United States and rendered to Egypt where we believe he was tortured and provided false and misleading information about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction program. That false information was ultimately included in Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement to the U.N. Security Council and, I assume, helped influence the Bush administration's decision to invade Iraq.

Furthermore, I think it is supremely unfair to the men and women in our intelligence community and military who labored for a decade to locate Osama bin Laden to claim falsely that they only succeeded because we used torture to extract actionable intelligence from a few detainees several years ago. I have not found evidence to suggest that torture—or since so much of our disagreement is definitional, interrogation methods that I believe are torture and which I believe are prohibited by U.S. law and international treaty obligations we are not just a party to but leading advocates of—played an important part in finding and killing bin Laden. Rather, I think his death at the hands of the United States argues quite the contrary, that we can succeed without resort to these methods.

It is also the case that the mistreatment of enemy prisoners endangers our own troops who might someday be held captive. While some enemies, and al-Qaida surely, will never be bound by the principle of reciprocity, we should have concern for those Americans captured by more conventional enemies if not in this war then in the next. Until about 1970, North Vietnam ignored its obligations not to mistreat the Americans they held prisoner, claiming that we were engaged in an unlawful war against them and thus not entitled to the protections of the Geneva Conventions. But when their abuses became widely known and incited unfavorable international attention, they subsequently decreased their mistreatment of our POWs.

Some have argued if it is right to kill bin Laden, then it should also be right to torture him had he been captured rather than killed. I disagree. First, the Americans who killed bin Laden were on a military mission against the leader of a terrorist organization with which we are at war. It was not a law enforcement operation or primarily an intelligence operation. They could not be certain that bin Laden, even though he was unarmed, did not possess some means of harming them—a suicide vest, for instance—and they were correctly instructed to take no unnecessary chances in the completion of their mission.

Second, bin Laden was a mass murderer. Had we captured him, he would have eventually received the ultimate sanction for his terrible crimes, as captured war criminals in previous wars have. But war criminals captured, tried, and executed in World War II, for instance, were not tortured in advance of their execution, either in retaliation for their crimes or to elicit information that might have helped us locate, apprehend, and convict other war criminals. This was not done because civilized nations have long made a distinction between killing and injuring in the heat of combat, on the one hand, and the deliberate infliction of physical torture on an incapacitated fighter on the other.

This distinction is recognized not only in longstanding American values

and practices but also in the Geneva Conventions that provide legal protections for our own fighting men and women.

All of these arguments have the force of right but, ultimately, even they are beside the most important point. There are many arguments to be made against torture on practical grounds. As I have said, I believe torture produces unreliable information, hinders our fight against global terrorism, and harms our national interest and reputation. But, ultimately, this debate is about far more than technical or practical issues. It is about far more than whether torture works or does not work. It is about far more than utilitarian matters.

Ultimately, this is about morality. What is at stake is the very idea of America—the America whose values have inspired the world and instilled in the hearts of its citizens the certainty that no matter how hard we fight, no matter how dangerous our adversary, in the course of vanquishing our enemies, we do not compromise our deepest values. We are America, and we hold our ourselves to a higher standard. That is what is at stake.

Although Osama bin Laden is dead, America remains at war, and to prevail in this war we need more than victories on the battlefield. This is a war of ideas as well, a struggle to advance freedom in the face of terror in places where oppressive rule has bred the malevolence that feeds the ideology of violent extremism. Prisoner abuses exact a terrible toll on us in this war of ideas. They inevitably become public, and when they do they threaten our moral standard and expose us to false but widely disseminated charges that democracies are no more inherently idealistic and moral than other regimes.

I understand that Islamic extremists who resort to terror would destroy us utterly if they could obtain the weapons to do so. But to defeat them utterly, we must also prevail in our defense of the universal values that ultimately have the greatest power to eradicate this evil ideology.

Although it took a decade to find him, there is one consolation for bin Laden's 10-year evasion of justice. He lived long enough to see what some are calling the Arab spring, the complete repudiation of bin Laden's world view and the cruel disregard for human life and human dignity he used to advance it. In Egypt and Tunisia, Arabs successfully reclaimed their rights from autocracies to determine their own destiny without resort to violence or the deliberate destruction of innocent life. Now Arabs are trying valiantly, by means as just as their cause, to do the same in Syria and elsewhere.

As the United States discusses and debates what role we should play to influence the course of the Arab spring, can we not all agree that the first and most obvious thing we can do is stand as an example of a just government and equal justice under the law, as a champion of the idea that an individual's human rights are superior to the will of the majority or the wishes of the government?

Individuals might forfeit their life and liberty as punishment for breaking laws, but even then, as recognized in our Constitution's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment, they are still entitled to respect for their basic human dignity, even if they have denied that respect to others.

I do not mourn the loss of any terrorist's life, nor do I care if in the course of serving their malevolent cause they suffer great harm. They have earned their terrible punishment in this life and the next. What I do mourn is what we lose when by official policy or official neglect we allow, confuse, or encourage those who fight this war for us to forget that best sense of ourselves, that which is our greatest strength; that when we fight to defend our security, we also fight for an idea, not a tribe, not a land, not a king, not a twisted interpretation of an ancient religion, but for an idea that all men are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights.

It is indispensable to our success in this war that those we ask to fight it know that in the discharge of their dangerous responsibilities to our country, they are never expected to forget they are Americans and the valiant defenders of a sacred idea of how nations should be governed and conduct their relations with others—even our enemies.

Those of us who have given them this onerous duty are obliged by our history and the many terrible sacrifices that have been made in our defense to make clear to them that they need not risk our country's honor to prevail, that they are always—through the violence, chaos, and heartache of war, through deprivation, cruelty and loss they are always Americans, and different, stronger, and better than those who would destroy us.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in 1982, I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. I was elected along with the now-senior Senator from the State of Arizona, JOHN MCCAIN. We were both part of that class of 1982.

I have given a lot of speeches on this Senate floor. So has my friend from Arizona and so have all of us. Frankly, most of the speeches we give may have a little bite for a day or two. But the speech just given by my friend, the senior Senator from Arizona, will be forever remembered in our country and in this body.

Senator MCCAIN and I have had our differences over the years. That does not take away from the fact that we are friends. We love prizefighting, and we love our States that are neighbors, Arizona and Nevada. He has an admirable record representing his party and running for the Presidency of the United States and chairman of a number of committees during his tenure in the Senate. We came to the Senate together, in addition to the House of Representatives.

I want the record to reflect my admiration and respect—as I believe the whole Senate's respect—for the speech given by this fine man from Arizona. No one in the Senate—no one, without any qualification—could have given the speech that was given today. Why? Because he speaks with knowledge—personal knowledge—that I am sure he still remembers in those dark nights when he is trying to rest about his having been tortured. Here is a man who, after having been tortured brutally, solitary confinement for not a week, not a month but years, was given permission by the North Vietnamese to go home: We will let you go home.

He said: I am not going home unless I go home with my colleagues who are in prison with me. Think about that—that concentration camp, basically.

I wish I had the ability to express in words my admiration for what he has just said because the things we do when it comes to our evil enemy, to say that all holds are barred does not work. The easy thing to do would be to say we should treat them as poorly as they treat us. But it takes a resume and courage to stand and speak as my friend from Arizona did today.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, may I thank my very honorable friend and adversary for his kind remarks. I will always remember them. I thank him.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will end my remarks today by reading three paragraphs from an op-ed that is running all over the country today, in newspapers all over America, an op-ed written by Senator JOHN MCCAIN:

> As we debate how the United States can best influence the course of the Arab Spring, can't we all agree that the most obvious thing we can do is stand as an example of a nation that holds an individual's human rights as superior to the will of the majority or the wishes of government? Individuals might forfeit their life as punishment for breaking laws, but even then, as recognized in our Constitution's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment, they are still entitled to respect for their basic human dignity, even if they have denied that respect to others.
>
> All of these arguments have the force of right, but they are beside the most important point. Ultimately, this is more than a utilitarian debate. This is a moral debate. It is about who we are.
>
> I don't mourn the loss of any terrorist's life. What I do mourn is what we lose when by official policy or official neglect we confuse or encourage those who fight this war for us to forget the best sense of ourselves.
>
> Through the violence, chaos and heartache of war, through deprivation and cruelty and loss, we are always Americans, and different, stronger and better than those who would destroy us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I will speak in morning business. Before I do

that, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from Nevada in paying tribute to the Senator from Arizona. Senator MCCAIN's words were both eloquent and profound, and they reflect not only his strong beliefs but his own personal experience and also reflect something else that has been consistent in everything he has done in the Senate; that is, his respect and deep regard for the men and women of the military services. His reflections today remind us of what they have done and of the high standards of conduct they expect of themselves and that we have to recognize also. Again, I join Senator REID in saluting Senator MCCAIN for his words but, as he does so many times, for also being the conscience of the Senate on so many important topics.

TAX SUBSIDIES

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I want to talk about the provisions my colleagues and I have introduced to ensure that the large oil companies of this Nation which are receiving great tax subsidies no longer receive taxpayer money to subsidize their profits, and to target those savings towards deficit reduction, which is one of the great tasks before us.

We are seeing an extraordinary runup in gas prices. In Rhode Island, the prices are exceeding $4 a gallon. These high gas prices threaten our economic recovery and they also put a brake on the expansion in job growth which is so necessary for all of our citizens. In fact, it is estimated that because of these gas prices, U.S. households will pay about $825 more in 2011 for gasoline than they did last year. That is a big bite out of the discretionary spending available to moderate-income families across this country.

One aspect of this runup in gas prices is the role of speculation. I am pleased that the President responded to a letter I led suggesting the appointment of a task force to look into this. He created the Oil and Gas Price Fraud Working Group, and under the leadership of Attorney General Eric Holder, they are looking seriously at the speculative aspects of the runup in gas prices. Some economists estimate that excessive speculation can drive up prices by as much as $1 a gallon. In fact, the huge retreat in the commodities market for oil last week suggests that much more than just simple supply and demand is responsible for these huge price increases, and we have to look carefully at this.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor, along with Senator MENENDEZ and several of my colleagues, of the Close Big Oil Tax Loopholes Act. It is extraordinarily ironic—and that is a mild term—to see the oil industry receiving huge subsidies at a time when market prices are producing what you would think would be the major incentive oil and gas companies need to explore and develop, and that incentive is the rather substantial given prices at the pump throughout the Nation. In fact, these prices have transformed and turned themselves into huge profits for the industry. ExxonMobil, for example, posted its biggest first-quarter profit in 8 years, with net income rising 69 percent, to $10.7 billion. In fact, the combined profits of the big five oil companies were more than $30 billion for the first quarter. Those are the kinds of rewards in the marketplace that suggest to everybody that the need for subsidies from the government is nonexistent. Indeed, what we have seen, rather than using the subsidies and these excess profits to go out and intensify the search for new oil, is that most of this has gone to providing dividends or stock buybacks to stockholders. That is a legitimate use of corporate money, but it really undercuts this notion that these subsidies are so essential for the companies to be competitive and also necessary for the kind of activity they are undertaking to search for and develop new oil resources.

There are so many aspects of the bill that I think are positive. They have been, in part or in whole, debated before. The bill ends a deduction the oil industry receives for the production of oil that is meant to assist American manufacturers, not oil producers. Some suggest that the oil companies only discovered this tax loophole after the fact but exploited it very aggressively, that it was intended for small companies that are producing physical products that could be shipped around the country; not for bringing in oil, reprocessing it, refining it, and getting a tax break. There are so many other irrational aspects of these subsidies that, again, the subsidies themselves have been called for a serious review, evaluation, and indeed elimination.

The other factor that compels us to take this step today is that we have to begin to reduce the deficit. All of the resources that are being saved, we hope through this legislation, will be targeted to deficit reduction. We can continue to provide the necessary support for our economy through a healthy oil and gas system, but not to subsidize an industry that does well in the marketplace, and we ought to use those funds to reduce the deficit.

There is another aspect not directly related to the provisions Senator MENENDEZ and I support, but relates to this debate. At the same time as the big oil companies defend these subsidies, they are also pushing for increased offshore drilling, but are unwilling to help ensure that it is safe. For example, we have tried to get the oil and gas industry to at least pay more for the inspections that are so necessary on these offshore platforms to provide for safety and prevent another Deepwater Horizon explosion. The administration has proposed an increase in fees oil companies pay for rig inspections from the present fee of $3,250 to $17,000, and the companies have balked at this. Here is an industry that is deriving huge tax subsidies, and obviously the example of the devastating Deepwater Horizon explosion and spill has raised serious concerns about the ability to manage and safely develop some of these offshore platforms, and essentially they are saying: No, we are not going to pay more for the inspection fees that are necessary.

The total increase is minimal. In fact, let me give a comparison. BP, British Petroleum, would be asked to pay about $1.5 million in fees, if this new fee structure were in effect, for their offshore platforms. That would represent about 0.01 percent of the $10.9 billion in revenues from the Gulf of Mexico last year. Yet the companies are saying no. When it comes to paying their fair share for inspections that directly benefit them, provide further confidence to the public that their operations are successful, and give them, frankly, more confidence in allowing or encouraging further offshore drilling, they say no. But when it comes to tax subsidies that benefit their bottom line, they say yes, yes, yes.

I think what we have to do is press forward to ensure that these tax subsidies are revoked, and dedicate these tax subsidies to deficit reduction. In that way, we can let the market decide on the success or failure of these companies. That is one of the mantras I hear so often from many here, particularly from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I think it can be done without in any way impacting the cost of fuel in the United States.

I think, frankly, what we are seeing—going back to my initial point—is that there are factors beyond tax subsidies that are driving up the cost of fuel: speculation; issues of the international exchange; the value of the dollar. But it is quite clear, given our dependency—and we have to get off that dependency on oil—that there will be a robust market for petroleum products in this country for the foreseeable future. That market alone justifies increased exploration, research, and other activity, and it will reward the companies. These subsidies are not necessary. Instead of wasting taxpayer money on subsidizing big oil profits, it is time we close these loopholes and return the savings to the American taxpayer. With that, I urge rapid support and favorable support of Senator MENENDEZ's legislation.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

USE OF TORTURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there was a column written in this morning's