

have it offered for the last week and a half. We hope very much soon that will happen.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would certainly concur with my colleague that we have made significant progress, particularly on that portion covering electricity. I remind my colleague that the transit of people, goods, and services utilizes not electricity but oil. We are somewhat extraordinary in this country inasmuch as we are about 3 percent of the population, and we use about 25 percent of the energy and contribute about a third of the gross world product. We are pretty efficient, but nevertheless, we don't move in and out of Washington, DC, by hot air. Somebody has to take the oil, whether it be oil coming from Saddam Hussein, refine it, put it in the airplanes.

Until we find another alternative, we are going to either have to make a choice of increasing our dependence on imported sources such as Iraq or have the alternative of developing resources here at home and preserving U.S. jobs and the U.S. economy rather than exporting our dollars overseas. I hope the wisdom of the Senate will prevail when we get to the ANWR amendment.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LANDRIEU). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I wish to speak about the Middle East because the news from the Israeli and the Palestinian territory grows dimmer and deadlier by the day.

Terrorist attacks and reprisal raids have now merged into continuous carnage that looks increasingly indistinguishable from all-out war. The Israelis and the Palestinians are being drawn into a horrific cycle of revenge.

Frankly, I think an eye for an eye and pain inflicted upon pain extended into the future will be an ever-wider river of blood that will be spilled. I wonder how wide the river of blood has to be before we get back to some kind of political settlement—some kind of

political process. There is no future as I look at the status quo extended into the future—not for the people of Israel and not for the Palestinians.

Let me start out on a personal note. I have used this example several times while talking to other Minnesotans and people I met with here in DC as well.

I was at a gathering where I was in a fairly sharp debate with some citizens who were talking to me about what they consider to be the unfairness and the wrongness of Israeli policies towards the Palestinian people. In this discussion, I turned to them and said: Listen, you have a right to make the critique you are making. But I have not heard you express any indignation whatsoever about the Palestinian suicide bombers going to an Israeli teenager pizza parlor with fragmentation bombs and cluster bombs trying to basically murder as many Israeli teenagers as possible. I don't mind your critique of some of Sharon's policies. I have questions about some of them. But where is your indignation and your anger about the murder of Israeli teenagers? I condemn that. I condemn the deliberate targeting of innocent people and the murder of innocent people. As Camus said, murder is never legitimate.

Frankly, some of Arafat's comments have become increasingly militant in the last several days. I certainly question some of his leadership. His statements in the last several days—and, maybe even more importantly, some of the actions taken by Arafat's people—give me pause.

But, by the same token, I want to be really clear about this. I think it is really important that we have Tony Zinni in the Middle East. I think it is critically important that our country play a positive role. I think it is critically important, as the administration has made clear—I said this to Secretary Bill Burton as well—that we make it clear to the extremists that Zinni is not leaving on the basis of a terrorist act here, there, or somewhere else. We are engaged.

Frankly, the only future is a political settlement. Senator Mitchell was right. The Mitchell report I think lays out a brilliant framework—if we can just somehow get there again.

I don't come to the floor with clear answers as to what to do, but I do know that an eye for an eye and the increasing cycle of violence takes us nowhere good—not for the Israelis, not for the Palestinians, not for our country, and not for the world in which we live.

I do not know. I think there are many questions that can be raised about Crown Prince Abdullah's proposal and where Saudi Arabia is going. I myself have questions about some of the proposals. But, by the same token, at least there is some hope here. We shall see what happens at this Arab summit conference.

We really need to be talking—on the part of Saudi Arabia and other countries—about the full normalization of

relations with Israel. They cannot back down from that. That is the very essence of where we have to go. I am concerned that some of the Arab countries seem to be backing down from that.

But I do not believe this proposal should be ruled out. I do not believe a proposal that at least attempts to move us towards some kind of negotiation and some kind of a peace process should be ruled out. Not all of it will be acceptable. I can tell you that right now. But I certainly would like to see the American Government in particular somehow play a role in moving from what has become an ever-growing cycle of violence and loss of life of innocent people to some kind of framework for negotiation and a political settlement.

Ultimately, the truth of the matter is that I am an American Jew. I am the son of a Jewish immigrant who fled from persecution in Ukraine. And then his family moved to Russia. At the age of 17, he fled to our country. I will be clear. I speak out of love for Israel. And Israel as a country will exist. The security of Israel and the need of Israel have to be met.

It is also true that the Palestinian people will have their own nation. Palestinians and Israelis have to live next to one another, and they will have to respect one another. That will happen. My only question is, How much wider a river of blood has to be spilled before we get back to where we all know we need to go? So I want to, I guess in a way, applaud the administration, applaud Secretary Powell for sending Tony Zinni there.

I simply say that we need to be engaged. Our Government can play a decisive, critical, and positive role. And we must do so.

HELPING THE HELPLESS

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I rise to express my puzzlement, my dismay, as to why, as soon as possible, we can't do a better job of helping people who are faced with some very compelling problems, very compelling needs.

What I am getting at is very simple. And maybe this all becomes part of the budget resolution. I know the ranking member of the Budget Committee is in the Chamber.

I was on the Iron Range in Minnesota. These are people who have been spat out of the economy. They are tacnite workers. Royal TV has pulled the plug. Others are going into bankruptcy. But I thought the discussion would be about pensions, and that is part of what people are worried about. It is not just Enron.

But I met more workers who were in their late fifties—57, 58 years old—mainly men, some women; and they were all saying the same thing: "I had a bout with cancer," or, "I had a heart attack and I can't get any coverage anywhere." They are terrified. They have no health care coverage. The