

community in which the people could live.

America, along with many other countries, remains firm and will not be deterred from achieving the goal of seeing a democracy in Iraq.

There is a realistic understanding of the difficulties and dangers in Iraq, but there are also visionary, optimistic leaders in Iraq and in the many countries that make up the multinational force who are determined to see the insurgency fail.

There have been many references to the July 2004 National Intelligence Estimate, or the NIE. In fact, Senator KENNEDY said in this Chamber on 29 September 2004 that the best case scenario in that NIE was that violence in Iraq would continue at current levels, with tenuous political and economic stability. Regardless of what this classified NIE actually said, I do know it was based on information that is but a snapshot in time and that time continues to move on.

There are many things visible today that were not clear when that NIE was written. The character of the Iraqi leadership was unknown last June, but no one who heard Prime Minister Allawi speak to the Joint Session of Congress recently could be anything but impressed with his enthusiasm, his intellect, and, most importantly, his determination to see a free and safe and democratic Iraq.

Lieutenant General Petraeus has been working assiduously to build up the Iraqi security forces. Last June, when the NIE was written, very few of those forces had completed their training. Now trained and competent Iraqi Army and police units are on duty and are assuming the major role in restoring security in their own country, and the training continues, so we can expect even more Iraqi security forces to assume their duties every month, just as they did in Samarra this past weekend.

We are engaged in an enormous struggle of historic proportions to see freedom and democracy spread throughout the Islamic world, and this will set the foundation for a final peaceful solution between Israel and Palestine. It will also, in the long term, eliminate the politically oppressive environment and poor economic conditions that have been the breeding grounds for terrorists to find new recruits.

I want to say to our military personnel and their families that your role in this historic and important struggle is the key to its success. You will look back with pride on your contributions and your sacrifices to make our country and the world safer. When you see what you have accomplished from an eagle's view, you will not see the hole that a pessimist sees.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwith-

standing morning business, it now be in order to consider amendments to the pending intelligence reform bill, and for the information of all Senators, these are amendments that have been cleared on both sides. This will only take a few moments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Is there objection?

Mr. STEVENS. Reserving the right to object, I intended to speak for 1 minute before the time had expired for morning business. Will the Senator yield for just one brief comment?

Ms. COLLINS. I will be happy to yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this bill came to the floor on September 27. It was debated a few hours, the 28th and 29th similarly. On the 30th, it was debated about half a day. Yesterday, we started business on the bill sometime around noon. Today, we are voting cloture on the seventh calendar day, but probably less than 3 days of debate. I think this rush is unbecoming of the Senate.

I shall oppose cloture, and I want the record to show I do not think this subject, reform of the intelligence community, has ever taken such a short period of time. We are acting under pressure primarily from two men whose business was through when they filed their report. I am appalled that we are moving at this pace.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I note that the debate on this bill has been extensive. The Senator from Connecticut and I were here until 9 p.m. last night. We were here until after 6 o'clock on Friday. We have been here, although others have not been here, debating all day every day.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REFORM ACT OF 2004

AMENDMENT NO. 3933, AS MODIFIED

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the first amendment I call up is amendment No. 3933, as modified, with the changes that are at the desk. This is an amendment from Senators CANTWELL, SESSIONS, SCHUMER, and KYL.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], for Ms. CANTWELL, herself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. KYL, proposes an amendment numbered 3933, as modified.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ BIOMETRIC STANDARD FOR VISA APPLICATIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Biometric Visa Standard Distant Borders Act".

(b) TECHNOLOGY STANDARD FOR VISA WAIVER PARTICIPANTS.—Section 303(c) of the En-

hanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 (8 U.S.C. 1732(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) TECHNOLOGY STANDARD FOR VISA WAIVER PARTICIPANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 26, 2006, the Secretary of State shall certify to Congress which of the countries designated to participate in the visa waiver program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) are developing a program to issue to individuals seeking to enter that country pursuant to a visa issued by that country, a machine readable visa document that is tamper-resistant and incorporates biometric identification information that is verifiable at its port of entry.

“(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—This subsection shall not be construed to rescind the requirement of section 217(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(a)(3)).”

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The amendment is pending. Is there further debate? If not, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3933), as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3957

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I now call up a managers' amendment that is at the desk and, again, has been cleared on both sides of the aisle.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], for herself, and Mr. LIEBERMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 3957.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there further debate on this amendment? If not, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3957) was agreed to.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3712, AS MODIFIED, AND 3768, AS FURTHER MODIFIED

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding morning business, that I send two amendments to the desk and ask the pending amendment also be set aside, to S. 2845.

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

Ms. COLLINS. On behalf of Senator ROCKEFELLER and Senator BAUCUS, these amendments have been cleared on both sides and I urge their adoption en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendments are agreed to.

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3172, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To provide improved aviation security)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —AVIATION SECURITY

SEC. —01. IMPROVED PILOT LICENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Aviation Administrator may develop a system for the issuance of any pilot's license issued more than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that—