I thought the most promising prospect was when Jim Baker and Lee Hamilton came down with the Iraq Study Commission report. They showed, in a bipartisan way among very prominent people of both parties, how you should approach this Iraq situation, and that was Novem-
ber or December when it came out, and here we are 4 months later and still we have not come together in common ground. So I would encourage my col-
teague to keep working.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I thank the Senator.

KIDS AND CAR SAFETY ACT

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. Presi-
dent, I want to talk about a sad situa-
tion we can do something about. A year ago this little girl, Veronica
Rosenfeld, and her mom were walking in their Boca Raton neighborhood. This little girl, Veronica, was about 5 feet ahead of her brother on the sidewalk when a neighbor, not seeing little Veronica, backing out of the driveway, backed out over her and killed her. Her mother was right there, and there was
nothing she could do about it. It is
very, very, very, very, very, very
horrible to lose them and be totally
helpless in preventing a senseless acci-
dent—an accident that could be pre-
vented.

Let’s talk about that, the prevention of the accident. Look what has hap-
pened in the last 6 years. There has
been a 138-percent increase in the last 6 years in the number of children killed in these noncrash fatalities in which people back over a child because they
can’t see the child. Several children are killed every week in the United
States, and sadly—and this is why I
bring it up again; I have brought it up
several times to the Senate—this past weekend in Florida, two more children
were killed in their driveways. In Hollywood, FL, a 3-year-old died when her father accidentally backed over her with his
cargo van, and in Fort Myers, a 5-year-
old was killed by her 16-year-old broth-
er when he was parking the family car.

Mr. President, this month alone, in
April, there have been 11 children
backed over and killed in this country. These injuries and deaths continue to
occur, even though we have the tech-
ology to prevent many of them. But we need the legislation to make the tech-
nology use. In April alone—and we
are not even to the end of April—they
have happened in Indiana, New York,
Georgia, three in Florida, two in Texas,
two in California, and one in Hawaii
thus far. And it is only April 24.

This is why a bill that has put the
President on notice. The President has
been behind the Cameron Gulbransen Kids
and Cars Safety Act. It is a bipartisan
bill that would provide drivers with the
means of detecting a child behind their
vehicle. This means that would also
ensure that any window would automati-

cally reverse direction to prevent a
child from being trapped and mandate
a car’s service brake to engage to pre-
vent rollaways. We have this tech-
nology in a lot of vehicles. We have
been in the vehicles where there is a
signal that goes beep, beep, beep, and it becomes more frequent when an object
is detected behind the car. The tech-
nology is there, and it is being used.

A child’s head is in a window and sud-
denly the window goes up. It hits re-
sistance and it reverses, and a parking
brake automatically engages to pre-
vent a rollaway on an incline.

Consumer groups have teamed with
the parents of victims to suggest ways
that are relatively simple and inexpen-
sive in order to ensure that more par-
ents won’t have to endure the pain of
losing a child. The technology is there. We all want to be safe behind the wheel of a car, especially when we back up.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence
of quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem-
po. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the
roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem-
po. Without objection, it is so or-
dered.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I will pro-
ceed in morning business. I believe
I have time allotted to me.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem-
po. The majority has 15 minutes.

IRAQ

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, President
Bush has spent the last 2 weeks talking
about the ‘progress’ the US is making in
Iraq and talking down the Democrats
and some of our Republican colleagues
for trying to bring this war to a respon-
sible end. But sometimes that is a
problem because you have to deal with
the facts. The facts are not as the
President wants them to be but as they
exist on the ground. The fact is, the
President is totally out of touch with
reality. He is out of touch with the
American people and with America’s int-

erests.

I have been here a while, and I can
say I have never seen a President as
isolated since Richard Nixon. The
President appears to be totally re-
moved from reality. He tells us that
Attorney General Gonzales has done a
great job, when anybody who watched
it views it as one of the least impres-
sive appearances of an Attorney Gen-
eral. He tells us that the President of
the World Bank, an American, is doing
a great job, oblivious to the damage
being done to America’s standing
around the world. And against the ad-
vice of some of the most gifted mili-
tary men and women in a generation,
he has adopted a policy in Iraq that is a disaster.

The President argues that the surge is succeeding, but with every welcome development he cites there is an equally unwelcome development that gives lie to the claim that we are making any progress. For example, while death squad violence against Iraqis is down in some Baghdad neighborhoods where we have surged, suicide bombings have increased over the last 6 weeks. Violence is up dramatically in the belt ringing Baghdad. The civilian death toll has increased 15 percent from February to March. When we squeeze a water balloon in one place, it bulges somewhere else. Moreover, Moqtada al-Sadr has not been seen, but he has been heard, rallying his followers with anti-American messages and his thugs to take on American troops in the south. Last week, he pulled his ministers from the coalition government, and intelligence experts believe his militia is the coalition government, and intelligence experts believe his militia is simply waiting out the surge.

Closing markets to vehicles has precluded some car bombs, but it also has prompted random attacks on civilians and people and civilians walking and driving in suicide vests. The road to the airport to Baghdad may be safer, but the skies above it are more lethal; witness the ironic imposition of “no-fly zones” for our own helicopters. "Tal Afar is the most damaging evidence of the absolute absurdity of this policy. The President cites it as progress.

Architects of the President’s plan called Tal Afar a model because in 2005 we surged about 10,000 Americans and Iraqis to pacify the city. Then we left, just as our troops will have to leave the Baghdad neighborhoods after calm is established, if it is.

But what happened in Tal Afar? It was the scene of some of the most horrific sectarian violence to date. A massive truck bomb aimed at the Shiite community led to a retaliatory roadside ambush. Then, as a demonstration of诚意, their religion, and their marriage. That is the only possibility. We can help Iraq change the focus to a limited central government and a Federal system, which their constitution calls for. I cannot guarantee that my strategy will work, but I can guarantee that the road the President has us on leads to nowhere with no end in sight.

We have to how to end this war responsibly. That is what we are trying to do in Congress. Later this week, we will send to the President an emergency supplemental bill on Iraq that provides every dollar our troops need and more than the President requested. It also provides what the majority of Americans expect and believe is necessary: a plan to start to bring our troops home and bring this war to a responsible end, not escalate it in an indefinable way. If the President vetoes the emergency spending bill, he is the one who will be denying our troops the funding they need. He is the one who will be denying our troops home and bringing this war to an end. The President’s double talk on Iraq is reaching new heights of hypocrisy. I don’t say that lightly.

On April 16, the President claimed that setting a timetable to start bringing our troops home would “legitimize the defeat.” Just 2 days after that, 2 days later, his own Secretary of Defense had this to say:

How many times have colleagues heard, beginning in January, how there is an oil agreement, that they have gotten that deal? Has anybody seen that deal, after we heralded it time and again as essential to pulling this country together?

In short, the most basic premise of the President’s approach—that the Iraqi people will rally behind a strong central government, headed by Maliki, which is not tantamount to our interests equitably—is fundamentally and fatally flawed. It will not happen in anybody’s lifetime here, including the pages.

If the President won’t look at a program—different than he is now—pursuing if his plan doesn’t work, what will he do? History suggests there are only a couple of ways, when there is a self-sustaining cycle of sectarian violence, to end it, and it is not to put American messages and his thugs to take on American troops in the south. Instead of escalating the war with no end in sight, we will have to extend tours because of that veto and that is unacceptable, and the very next day he extends the tour of every person on the ground. Once one gets over the hypocrisy, that announcements is an urgent warning that the administration’s policy in Iraq cannot be sustained without doing terrible long-term damage to our military.

If this administration insists on keeping this many troops in Iraq until November, we will have to extend tours back for third, fourth, and fifth tours, extend deployment times from 6 months to a year for marines, from 12 months to 16 to 18 months for the Army. The military will also be forced to end the practice of keeping troops at home for at least 1 year between deployments, to fully mobilize the National Guard and Reserve, and to perpetuate this backdoor draft. Instead of working with Democrats in Congress in a way forward, this President, divorced from reality, is accusing us of emboldening the enemy and undermining our troops. I have a message for you, Mr. President: The only thing that is emboldening the enemy is your failed policy. Mr. President, the only mission you have accomplished is emboldening the enemy with your failed policy.

Instead of escalating the war with no end in sight, we have to start bringing our troops home and bringing this war to a responsible end, not escalate it in an indefinable way. If this administration insists on keeping this many troops next year, we are in serious, serious jeopardy.
I conclude by saying that I believe it is my obligation as a Senator—and I hope the obligation of everyone else—to keep relentless, unending pressure on this President to come to grips with reality, to continually push every single day to say, Mr. President, stop; stop this policy of yours.

It is my hope, even though he is likely to veto this bill, that we will keep the pressure on and ultimately convince at least a dozen of our Republican colleagues it is time to stop back ing the President and start backing the troops. It is time, Mr. President, to begin to responsibly bring this war to an end.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem pore. Morning business is closed.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem pore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 761, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 761) to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy.

Pending:
Bingaman amendment No. 908, to make certain improvements to the bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem pore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am waiting on the Democratic manager of the bill, Senator BINGAMAN, who should be here right away. Following that, we hope to go to the Senator from South Carolina, who has some amendments to offer, but it is not appropriate for me to do that until Senator BINGAMAN is here. That will take a moment. Then we will go forward, if that is all right with the Senator from South Carolina.

We had a good discussion yesterday on the America COMPETES Act. To remind all Senators, this is the Reid-McConnell legislation, with 56 cosponsors, which seeks to help our country keep our brainpower advantage so we can keep our jobs. It is the result of 2 years of work within this body through three committees principally but really five or six.

We asked the National Academy of Sciences to tell us exactly what we need to do to keep our competitive advantage in the world in competition with China and India so our jobs don’t go there, so we can keep this remarkable situation we have of producing 30 percent of all the money each year for 5 percent of the people, with at least half of that based on our technological advantage. The National Academy of Sciences President submitted a list of recommendations in priority order. The Council on Competitiveness formed the basis of a Lieberman-Ensign bill, the President made his own recommendations, and all that now has been worked through into this legislation.

I see Senator BINGAMAN. If I may, I would like to finish 3 or 4 minutes of remarks and then go to Senator BINGAMAN.

Yesterday, Senator INOUYE, Senator STEVENS, Senator DOMENICI, all of whom have been leaders on this legislation, spoke on the floor. Senator CHAMBLISS as well spoke on the floor. Senator BINGAMAN, of course, has been a leader from the very beginning, asking the questions that helped produce this result. So we have before us a leadership bill on a subject that is as important as any.

Almost all Members of the Senate over the last 2 years have had plenty of opportunity to influence this bill, and most have in one way or the other. It has been a remarkable exercise. But there is still time today and tomorrow for us to consider more options.

The President, last night by e-mail—someone in the White House—sent a Statement of Administration Policy to Capitol Hill which outlines the administration’s views on the pending legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the President’s remarks on January 31, 2006, from his State of the Union Address in which he spoke about the importance of the competitiveness initiative.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. As a courtesy to the administration, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record the administration’s Statement of Administration Policy following my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 2.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I know how important the President believes this is. I have talked with him about it at least a half dozen times personally, usually in bipartisan sessions with a number of Senators, sometimes individually. I know the Vice President has been deeply involved.

When there is some more time on the floor this afternoon, if we have a lull in the debate, I will go through the Statement of Administration Policy and talk about it a little bit. Basically, it is very helpful to us. It points out that there is not much difference between what the President proposes to spend over the next 4 years and the amount we would propose to authorize to spend in this bill. As one might expect, the President likes his new programs but doesn’t like some other new programs, and there are some where we are well taken that we can talk about, perhaps accept amendments, at least discuss with the Democratic majority those amendments, and there will be some amendments that are offered on the Senate floor.

I will reserve my comments on the President’s Statement of Administration Policy. It is good to have it. We will make it part of the debate—and taking the President at his word—given the President’s statement and the administration policy statement that “The administration looks forward to working with Congress to address these various policy concerns as the legislative process moves forward.”

I refer to Senator BINGAMAN, if I may. Senator DEMINT is ready to offer amendments and speak about them whenever that is appropriate.

EXHIBIT 1
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT, JAN. 31, 2006

“And to keep America competitive, one commitment is necessary above all: We must continue to lead the world in human talent and creativity. Our greatest advantage in the world has always been our educated, hardworking, ambitious people—and we’re going to keep that edge. Tonight I announce an American Competitiveness Initiative, to encourage innovation throughout our economy, and to give our Nation’s children a firm grounding in math and science.

First, I propose to double the federal commitment to the most critical basic research programs in the physical sciences over the next 10 years. This funding will support the work of America’s most creative minds as they explore promising areas such as nanotechnology, supercomputing, and alternative energy sources.

Second, I propose to make permanent the research and development tax credit—to encourage border private—sector initiatives in technology. With more research in both the public and private sectors, we will improve our quality of life—and ensure that America will lead the world in opportunity and innovation for decades to come.

Third, we need to encourage children to take more math and science, and to make sure those courses are rigorous enough to compete with other needs. I made a good start in the early grades with the No Child Left Behind Act, which is raising standards and lifting test scores across our country. Tonight I propose to give 70,000 high school teachers to lead advanced-placement courses in math and science, bring 30,000 math and science professionals to teach in classrooms, and give early help to students who struggle with math, so they have a better chance at good, high-wage jobs. If we ensure that America’s children succeed in life, they will ensure that America succeeds in the world.

Preparing our Nation to compete in the world is a goal that all of us can share. I urge you to support the American Competitiveness Initiative, and together we will show the world what the American people can achieve.”

EXHIBIT 2
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
S. 761 AMERICA CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO MEANINGFULLY PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND SCIENCE ACT
(Sen. Reid (D) Nevada and 55 cosponsors)

One of the more important domestic priorities of the Administration over the last two