

and presented on the Senate floor. That is a false choice.

There is a third way, and that is attrition through enforcement or whittling down in a significant way this 13 million plus figure to something much smaller, much more manageable, through real enforcement measures, not only at the border which, of course, is necessary to make sure the numbers don't go up and up, but in the interior, specifically at the workplace.

According to a recent Zogby poll, when given the choice between mass deportations, mass amnesty, and the third way, attrition through enforcement, a majority of Americans clearly choose attrition through enforcement. Of course, most polls leave out that option. Most polls promote the false choice. Most debate, quite frankly, on the Senate floor promotes the false choice, but it is false. There is this real alternative.

How do we get there? Two main ways: border security—the good news there is we have begun to make inroads, spending \$3 billion on significant new border security in the last appropriations cycle, and that was positive follow-on to the defeat of the amnesty bill last summer. But there is also a second key ingredient, a second key ingredient that has been largely ignored and not addressed in this effort, and that is interior enforcement, particularly at the workplace.

In my opinion, that is the missing link, the missing piece of the puzzle to make all of this begin to come together. Border security is crucial. We have done significant work there. We need to do much more. But interior enforcement and enforcement at the workplace is at least as crucial. We need to have a real system that works for that security—a real-time database, not a system based on paper documents which can so easily be forged—to ensure that companies only hire folks in this country legally. When we have that system in place, that will change the dynamics overnight. That will begin this process of attrition through enforcement. That will bring that 13 million plus number down significantly, if we truly have the political will to produce a system, a real-time database, a nonpaper system to ensure that employers only hire folks in this country who are here legally. If they do otherwise, then, of course, they should be hit with significant criminal penalties.

So, again, I am proud to announce the organization of this new caucus: the Border Security and Enforcement First Caucus. My colleagues will be hearing a lot more from us in the coming days and months as we repeat the message delivered by the American people last summer so loudly, so clearly: We don't want amnesty. We do want enforcement first, including workplace enforcement, including interior enforcement that can lead to attrition through enforcement. Hopefully, we can begin to get our hands around this

very crippling, potentially debilitating problem of illegal immigration.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. How much time is left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 14 minutes 16 seconds.

THE BUDGET

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I rise this morning to respond to the ranking member of the Budget Committee, who came out a few moments ago to talk about the budget. We are in the process right now of putting together this year's budget. It will be voted on in committee today or tomorrow and, of course, then out here on the floor. We will have a lot of floor time over the next week to discuss the budget.

I felt it was really important to set the record straight because it is that rhetorical time again when we will hear our colleagues on the other side of the aisle come out and say Democrats are tax-and-spend liberals. Let me set the record straight.

Last year's budget had a \$180 billion tax cut in it—not for the wealthiest Americans but for hard-working middle-class Americans.

We worked very hard to put together a fiscally responsible budget. We are not going to sit here and listen to "tax and spend" thrown at us time and time again when, in reality, with the Democratic President 7 years ago we came into the time with a budget that had a surplus, which we soon saw diminished incredibly, and we are now in deficit spending because of an irresponsible tax cut the Republicans have been pushing for the wealthiest of Americans, which even Senator JOHN MCCAIN didn't vote for at the time. It did leave us without the capacity to make sure we had the investments we needed to be able to ensure that Americans can stay in their homes; that they can have roads they can drive on to get to work; that they can make sure their children have the kind of education they need so they can get a job and contribute back to this country; and, importantly, to take care of our veterans who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan and finding long waiting lines at our medical facilities and not getting the adequate care they need.

The budget that the Budget chair will present this afternoon is, once again, a fiscally responsible document that understands the needs of Americans and will make sure we are responding to the crisis we are in today in this country and invest in America's people. It is fiscally responsible. It is not about tax cuts or tax increases, it is about making sure we have the revenues available to make sure every single American today has the opportunity that is available for them, that dream that they can live to be a strong

American citizen and to keep our communities and America strong.

So I reject the argument that we all hear thrown at us time and again that Democrats are "tax-and-spend" liberals. We are fiscally responsible Democrats, and we are proud of it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, as I understand, we are still in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that we yield back the time, and it is my understanding that more Senators would like to speak this morning.

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

Mr. PRYOR. I thank the Chair.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CPSC REFORM ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2663, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2663) to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Pryor amendment No. 4090, of a technical nature.

Cornyn amendment No. 4094, to prohibit State attorneys general from entering into contingency fee agreements for legal or expert witness services in certain civil actions relating to Federal consumer product safety rules, regulations, standards, certification, or labeling requirements, or orders.

DeMint amendment No. 4096, to strike section 21, relating to whistleblower protections.

Feinstein amendment No. 4104, to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution in commerce of certain children's products and childcare articles that contain specified phthalates.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I wish to notify our colleagues that I think we are making great progress on this legislation. Senator CORNYN is here to talk about one of his amendments. We know there are a few other amendments that are being discussed right now, maybe in the cloakrooms or in Senators' offices. That is very encouraging. The feedback we have received has been very positive. It looks as if there are some amendments that will require votes.

I encourage all Senators who would like to come and speak to make plans to do that at some point today. I encourage anyone who has any amendments that they would like to have