

passed last week on a party-line vote spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. As a result, the President has now proposed some modest spending reductions totaling a fraction—a fraction—of a percent of the trillions his budget would add to the debt.

Well, that is a start, but with Democrats in Congress adding to the national debt at a rate of more than \$100 billion every month already this year, and with a budget that triples the already unsustainable public debt over the next decade, it is clear there is not much more we can do to protect our children and grandchildren from the unprecedented trillions in additional debt proposed by this administration.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business—in fact, I think we are in morning business. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 20 minutes.

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

#### GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I wish to thank our Republican leader for so succinctly summing up the issue we face in regards to the terrorists—and, yes, they are terrorists—who are at Guantanamo Bay and for what I think is the almost unbelievable suggestion that we move these folks to a homeland, USA, and my remarks will continue in that regard. I thank the leader for raising the subject.

I rise today to speak about Guantanamo Bay, but I wish to point out that I am speaking about a Guantanamo Bay that some of my colleagues and some citizens of our great country might not recognize.

Obviously, the Guantanamo Bay I am speaking of houses “terrorists.” I have been there, and there are terrorists at Gitmo. I have seen them. As a matter of fact, I have seen interrogation procedures with the terrorists. They are not “enemy combatants” fighting an “overseas contingency operation,” but terrorists whom we must wage a war on terror against because they continually plan to launch attacks against us.

Senator McCONNELL spoke of the 10 percent who have been released and who have shown back up on the battlefield. There is a wonderful picture—well, it isn’t a wonderful picture; it is a very telling picture—of one of these terrorists who was incarcerated at Gitmo and whom we released. He was treated and fitted with a prosthesis—with health care better than many of my small communities get.

There is a picture of him back on the battlefield waving his prosthesis in one hand and with an AK-47 in the other. If that doesn’t tell the story, I don’t know what would.

The reason I explain this is because we have seen a change in how those who are incarcerated at Gitmo are now being defined and described both in the media and in the administration, and as a consequence, by some Americans. I understand there is a poor perception of Guantanamo Bay, but to say there are no terrorists there, to say that there are not even enemy combatants there is doing a disservice to us all by trivializing the crimes committed by those who are incarcerated there.

I ask my colleagues: When did we start making terror politically correct? And why?

I understand this administration has great feelings about these issues, and many Americans have great feelings about these issues. Many Americans disagree very strongly with the past administration. I know this administration wants to draw a line of demarcation and say: This is not our policy, whether it is the war in Iraq, whether it is our operations in Afghanistan, whether it is our foreign policy, our national security policy, or whether it is intelligence. These are all very legitimate topics for debate and discussion, but in the process of this debate and this discourse, we should not ignore reality.

This same question as to why we would do this was asked by Daniel Pearl’s father, Judea Pearl, in an article that ran in the Wall Street Journal this past February. I have the article here. It is called “Daniel Pearl and the Normalization of Evil.” Every Senator and every American should read this article and should take it to heart.

As I think most people know—and we should all remember—Daniel Pearl was the American journalist captured and beheaded—beheaded on video—by the “nonterrorist, nonenemy combatant” Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in 2002. He was beheaded by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who is actually sitting at Guantanamo Bay right now.

Listen to what Professor Judea Pearl, who is a respected professor at UCLA, has to say about that act of terror when he and Danny’s mother looked at a picture of their son, Daniel:

Those around the world who mourned for Danny—

His son—

in 2002 genuinely hoped that Danny’s murder would be a turning point in the history of man’s inhumanity to man, and that the targeting of innocents to transmit any political message would quickly become, like slavery and human sacrifice, an embarrassing relic of a bygone era.

But somehow,—

And I continue to quote Professor Pearl—

barbarism, often cloaked in the language of resistance, has gained acceptance in the most elite circles of our society. The words “war on terror” cannot be uttered today without fear of offense. Civilized society, so it seems, is so numbed by violence that it has lost its gift to be disgusted by evil.

Well, I remain disgusted by evil, and more than that, I am fatigued by those who seemingly ignore it. I am dis-

gusted by those who target innocent civilians as they spew their hatred, and I refuse to adopt what Danny’s father called “the mentality of surrender.” I think it is not too late. It is not too late for a wake-up call. We can all refuse to surrender to the idea that terrorism is somehow a tactic. To refuse to believe it is an acceptable tool of resistance.

There is still time for Americans to remember that there are men at Guantanamo Bay who cannot be released and most certainly should not be on American soil. In fact, Americans must remember there are men at Gitmo who planned the September 11 attacks, the USS Cole attack prior to that—this was before we even connected the dots—and the attacks on American Embassies in Africa, causing great loss of human life. There are men at Gitmo who have perpetuated horrible crimes against humanity and would like to do so again because they don’t like who we are or the way we live.

Terrorist detainees should be held, as they are now, at Gitmo, in compliance with international law. That should be respected, of course.

Ask the Red Cross or our new Attorney General, Eric Holder. Guantanamo, despite what some might think, is a first-rate facility that safely keeps these men out of civilized societies, affords them human treatment, and gives them religious respect. Again, I know. I was there.

Certainly, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed did not afford Daniel Pearl those courtesies. No, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and others like him were—and still are—on a jihad against every man, woman, and child in our country. Yet we should bring these terrorists to American soil? Not only is that just plain wrong, it is logistically a situation that will not work. We can’t do it without a tremendous infusion of funds and a lot of other problems.

In Dodge City, KS, at the coffee clutch that I attend, they call that flatout dumb. In fact, for those who would like to bring these nonterrorists, nonenemy combatants to hometown, USA, let me paint a picture.

Fort Leavenworth, KS, has been mentioned many times as a possible location for the 100 or so terrorists whom Defense Secretary Gates says can’t be released but can’t be tried. Leavenworth: where we educate all future Army officers, where we host foreign military officers every year to build relationships and foster military cooperation. Leavenworth: the intellectual center of the Army.

Do my colleagues think Army officers want to study at Fort Leavenworth if terrorists are there? Do they think they want to send their kids to school on the base minutes away from the most dangerous men in the world? Do they think foreign countries, especially friendly Muslim nations, will want to send their best and brightest officers to a place that houses men who we all agree are not appropriate for a

civilized society? I don't think so. Not a chance.

Even worse, I can't believe we are asking the people of Leavenworth to hang out with the "welcome terrorists" banner or put out the welcome mat to terrorists or to share their community not only with terrorists but with every protestor who will inevitably show up or with every terrorist who will view a facility on the mainland as a target, as they do. And before someone says Fort Leavenworth is secure, let me tell you it is secure all right; but for military prisoners who are compliant and for civilian prisoners who are not on a jihad against America.

Guantanamo Bay is a fortress, a humane, Red Cross-approved fortress, but a fortress nonetheless. Moving such a facility to hometown, USA, will require security beyond reality. I can't even begin to imagine what it would look like at Leavenworth, but I do know it is unrealistic to think a place such as Leavenworth, which has a railroad running through it and a river running next to it and highways all around it, would not be secure. No, it is not secure enough. In fact, the only place that is would have to be a fortress in the middle of nowhere—or Guantanamo Bay.

Let's also not forget the cost to taxpayers if such a thing would actually happen. We would not be able to mix these prisoners with the general prison population there, let alone the public. We would have to build a hospital and medical facilities, exercise and eating facilities, places for religious worship, and the list goes on and on and on. We have that at Gitmo. If anyone thinks that is crazy, I recommend they travel to Gitmo and take a look. They already have all of those facilities there. In fact, the medical facilities I saw are better than most in most of our small rural communities in this country.

Why we keep coming back to this ridiculous argument, why we keep trivializing the crimes committed by those at Gitmo, and why we keep offering up our American communities as a reasonable alternative is beyond me.

But I will say this: not in our backyard, not in Kansas, not on this Senator's watch, not on my watch. I don't know how many times I have to say or shout this on the Senate floor before this misbegotten idea is put to rest. But trust me—trust me—I will continue to do it until we come to our senses or until one of my colleagues who wants to close Gitmo offers a site in their State as a reasonable alternative.

One Senator has a lot of tools in his toolbox for keeping the Senate tied up in knots. If someone gets the bright idea of moving these prisoners to Kansas, we can all cancel our summer travel plans because we are going to be spending a lot of time here doing nothing. Come to think of it, that might be a better alternative as to where we are headed.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

Madam President, it has come to my attention that I don't think we have a quorum, so I 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. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

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

#### WEAPON SYSTEMS ACQUISITION REFORM ACT

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I am pleased to cosponsor the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act, which would overhaul our defense procurement system and improve mechanisms for identifying and eliminating waste. I thank Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN for introducing this critical piece of legislation and recognize them for their effort moving it through the Armed Services Committee.

This bill is an essential step toward eliminating wasteful inadequacies that have permeated the weapons procurement system. I am sure my colleagues share my deep concern about the Government Accountability Office's conclusion last year that "... DOD [acquisition] programs continue to be sub-optimal" resulting in "... lost buying power and [lost] opportunities to recapitalize the force."

This is unconscionable and unacceptable for the world's strongest military power, especially as we continue to have troops in harm's way.

Today, Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN will discuss some of the most egregious examples of a lack of oversight in the acquisition process and cost discrepancies that surfaced over time. This is why this bill requires the Secretary of Defense to implement mechanisms that guarantee consideration of the tradeoffs between major weapon systems cost, schedule, and performance at each phase of the procurement process.

This bill would give the Department of Defense the tools it needs to improve the acquisition process to avoid "sub-optimal" results, reduce waste, and ensure that the cost of developing specific weapon systems is commensurate with our defense needs.

According to Secretary Gates, this will require "... a holistic assessment of capabilities, requirements, risks and needs" which will entail, among other things, "... a fundamental overhaul of our approach to procurement, acquisition and contracting."

Both President Obama and Secretary Gates have indicated their strong support for this legislation because they want to do everything in their power to protect our troops, advance national security goals, and keep America safe.

Unfortunately, we will not get a refund from the mistakes of the past, but we can make better decisions today that will lay the foundation for more pragmatic decisionmaking in the future.

The military challenges we are facing today are unlike conventional wars of the past. Let me repeat. The military challenges we face today are unlike wars of the past and, therefore, require a reconfiguration of defense spending. I agree with the assessment of leading defense experts that we must better prepare to win the wars we are in, as opposed to those we may wish to be in.

Last month, I had the privilege of traveling with Senator JACK REED to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq, where it was abundantly clear that we must focus future spending on our growing counterinsurgency needs.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, we are engaged in a four-stage process of shaping the environment, clearing the insurgents with military power, holding the area with effective security forces and police, and building through a combination of governance and economic development.

The four stages, again, are shaping the environment, clearing the insurgents, holding the area, and building through a combination of governance and economic development.

In order to be successful in this complex process, we must ensure that our commanders have the necessary tools to effectively engage in counterinsurgency operations, and this requires a fundamental rebalancing of our defense priorities.

As we shift resources from Iraq to Afghanistan, we hear over and over, we are facing potential shortages of some of the high-demand equipment and "critical enablers," such as UAV operators, engineers, air traffic controllers, and road-clearing units.

The allocation of these scarce resources forces our military leadership to make difficult decisions as it balances competing needs in Afghanistan and Iraq. These shortages underscore—underscore—why we must eliminate waste and reshape our defense priorities.

It is in this regard that I wish to highlight section 105 of this bill which directs the Joint Requirements Oversight Council to seek and consider input from combatant commanders prior to identifying joint military requirements.

This provision is essential because it incorporates the views of our commanders on the ground to ensure they have the tools they need to better protect our troops, defeat militants, and succeed in our missions overseas.

As Secretary Gates wrote in "Foreign Affairs" earlier this year, we must