Mr. President, today is

a day which can be historic. Important

items will be discussed on the floor of

the Senate, including health insurance

for literally millions of American kids.

At the same time, there is a debate

that has been started in New York at

the United Nations Security Council. It

is a debate about a genocide.

It is, thank goodness, rare that we

have to address the issue of genocide in

this world, but today we must. We are

talking of a genocide today, in New

York, at the Security Council, that has

caused untold human misery, mass

murder, dislocation, torture, rape, and

the torching of entire villages. For 4

years the world has watched this tragedy.

That’s right, for 4 years.

Haven’t we learned our lesson when

it comes to letting genocide continue

without taking action?

There is a great Senate story involving

former Wisconsin Senator Bill

Proxmire. In 1967, Senator Proxmire

began a streak in the Senate that has

never been broken. Mr. President, 18

years earlier, in 1949, President Truman

had sent the United Nations Genocide

Convention to the Senate for advice

and consent. In 1967, it was still

languishing, held up by a small band of

Senators who opposed it. Many Senators

just shook their head because of

this opposition. Bill Proxmire rose to

his feet.

Starting in 1967, Senator Proxmire

made a speech every day the Senate

was in session, for 19 years, imploring

the Senate to adopt the Genocide Convention.

All together, he gave 3,211

speeches—each one of them different.

In 1986 the Senate gave its consent to

the treaty.

Why did Senator Proxmire continue

to give all those speeches, day after

day, year after year? It wasn’t just

stubbornness. It was a moral obligation,

and because he understood genocide

was happening again. At that time

it was happening in Cambodia.

Between 1975 and 1979 the Khmer

Rouge murdered 2 million people. The

United States wisely and bravely led

the international effort to hold the

Nazi co-conspirators to account at Nuremberg.

We and the rest of the world

failed to act while Cambodia was being

turned into killing fields.

In 1994 we failed to act again when

between 800,000 and 1 million people

were murdered in Rwanda in 1 month.

Sadly, we have failed to take the necessary

action to stop the genocide in

Darfur. More than 21⁄2 years have

passed since the U.N. commission of inquiry

concluded that:

Earlier this year, President Bush declared:

Yesterday, the new British Prime

Minister, Gordon Brown, said in a joint

press conference with President Bush

that:

Yet it is not simply enough to acknowledge

genocide. We need to follow

Senator Proxmire’s example in having

the courage, in real time, to act

against it.

The crisis in Darfur has been repeated

over and over. Paul Salopek, a

Chicago Tribune reporter, was captured

and jailed by the Khartoum government

for 34 days last year. He wrote a

haunting description of what one sees

when you fly over the villages of

Darfur. This is what he wrote:

Most recently, Refugees International

released a report documenting

that:

Incredibly, the Sudanese Government

claims the atrocities are part of their

war on terror. At a press conference in

Washington earlier this summer, Sudan’s

Ambassador to the United States

compared the slaughter to a family

quarrel, and he said:

Just this last week, Sudanese President

Bashir visited Darfur and said:

People there are ‘‘living normal

lives.’’

These are lies. This is genocide. It is

calculated. It is happening on our

watch, in our time.

This week, the global community has

a chance to finally make a difference. I

am going to join today with Senators

FEINGOLD and MENENDEZ in calling for

a decisive vote at the United Nations

on an expanded peacekeeping force and

renewed diplomatic effort in Darfur.

The U.N. Security Council will vote

this week, maybe even today, on a new

United Nations-African Union peacekeeping

force that can make a dramatic

difference in stemming the violence

in Darfur. It also provides an

equally important opportunity for

peace negotiations.

After years of duplicity in the genocide,

Sudanese President Bashir agreed

last month to the significant expanded

joint United Nations-African Union

peacekeeping force. Yet a series of his

recent comments contradict that commitment,

and a history of involvement

in violence makes immediate action all

the more important.

The need is simple—rapid deployment

of the new peacekeeping force

and a renewed diplomatic effort at a

long-term political settlement.

I have tried in some small way to

urge the members of the United Nations

Security Council to act swiftly. I

discussed urgency of these matters

with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-

Moon and the Ambassadors of China,

Ghana, Republic of Congo, Russia, and

South Africa. All were current or permanent

members of the Security Council.

It is the first time I have ever

picked up the phone to call Ambassadors

from other countries about a

vote in the United Nations Security

Council, but I think it is that important.

It is my hope that our U.N. Ambassador,

Zalmay Khalilzad, will work

closely with these nations and Secretary

General Ban to make these

steps a reality.

I stressed to the Secretary General

and to the Ambassadors that the Security

Council should be firm in its mandate.

We need a force with sufficient

resources and numbers; a strong mandate

to protect civilians, peacekeepers,

and humanitarian workers; a clear

U.N. command and control structure,

and benchmarks with the threat of

sanctions that hold the Sudanese Government

accountable; no room for further

stalling or delay by the Sudanese

Government; a renewed diplomatic effort

to bring about a long-term political

settlement, including naming a

Special Representative of the Secretary

General to monitor implementation

of a comprehensive peace agreement;

and the force must be deployed

as quickly as possible.

Congress, the administration, and

the private sector—we all need to take

action to end the genocide in Darfur. In

Congress we have passed the Genocide

Accountability Act, which allows the

prosecution of genocide committed by

anyone currently in the United States,

regardless of where the genocide occurred.

We have passed language in the

Iraq supplemental bill that requires

the Treasury Department to submit to

Congress a report that lists the companies

operating in the Sudanese natural

resources industry, and requires the

General Services Administration to report

to Congress on whether the U.S.

Government has an active contract

with any of those companies.

Later today the House is expected to

pass a bill that would support State

and local divestment efforts, require

companies to disclose Sudanese-related

business activities, investigate whether

the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment

Board has invested funds in any

of these companies operated in Sudan,

and bar the U.S. Government from operating

with any companies operating

to benefit the Sudanese regime.

A few weeks ago, the Senate passed

the International Emergency Economic

Powers Enhancement Act, which

increases civil and criminal penalties

associated with violating American

economic sanctions such as those

against Sudan. I encourage our House

counterparts to pass this bill as well.

I have introduced legislation similar

to the bill the House is expected to

pass today that would support State

governments that decide to encourage

public funds to divest from Sudan-related

investments. That bill has strong

bipartisan support, nearly a third of

the Senate.

We tried to pass it, but someone in

the Senate has put a hold on that bill.

They have decided we should not move

quickly to try to divest and discourage

genocide. I urge whatever Republican

colleague on that side has put a hold

on this bill to seriously stop and consider

the impact of this political move.

We need to make sure the House and

the Senate are on record on a bipartisan

basis, clearly, unequivocally.

I have also included in the Senate Financial

Services and General Government

Appropriations Act language requiring

the administration to report on

the effectiveness of the current sanctions

regime and recommended steps

Congress can take.

Personally, some of us have decided

to divest from Sudan-related investments

in our own portfolios as a gesture

of solidarity. The administration

has taken some important steps. In

April of this year, at the Holocaust

Museum, President Bush declared

rightly that the United States has a

moral obligation to stop the genocide

in Darfur. Recently the President took

the first step toward meeting that obligation

by ordering the U.S. sanctions

against Sudan be tightened.

The Treasury Department is adding

30 companies that are owned or controlled

by the Government of Sudan to

a list of firms that are barred from U.S.

financial assistance. The Office of Foreign

Assets Control within the Treasury

Department, working with other

agencies, has worked hard to tighten

economic and political sanctions.

Although these are important steps, I

wish the U.S. Government, the Congress,

and the President, had taken

these steps sooner. Ultimately, we and

the private sector must do all we can

to ensure the genocide in Darfur once

and for all is brought to an end.

I am going to end today with a quote

from Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor

Eli Weisel:

I see on the floor my colleagues from

Wisconsin and New Jersey who join me

today in this floor effort, this message

to the United Nations. I wish to thank

Senator MENENDEZ for his continuing

interest in this Darfur genocide. He has

carried on in the Senate a tradition

started when I first came here by his

predecessor, Senator Corzine.

I also wish to thank Senator FEINGOLD,

who is chairman of the African

Subcommittee of Foreign Relations.

He has a special interest in that continent

and a special dedication to ending

the genocide in Darfur.

I yield the floor.