Mr. President, it is very difficult for me to believe

some of the things I am actually hearing right now. In fact, I don't

believe them after General Petraeus has made such a fine presentation

to us. There are a few things in the closed session that we cannot talk

about, but I have taken those out. The things we can talk about--in

answer to a question, you said: Can you talk about some of the positive

things that have happened?

He is talking about Anbar. I am now quoting: Anbar has gone from

being assessed as being lost to a situation that now is quite

heartening because of the decision by a number of Sunni Arab tribes to

join the fight against al-Qaida; the reduction of sectarian murders in

Baghdad, that is down by approximately a third; progress in Anbar is

almost something that is breathtaking--the killing of the security

Amir of al-Qaida in eastern Anbar Province; the detention of the

Khazali network; we have picked up the Shabani network head in Iraq.

That is the explosively-formed projectile element in Iraq that gets

them from others in Iraq, these are the explosively-formed projectiles.

It goes on and on. He talks about the progress in Ramadi.

My only wish is that so many of those who are detractors would have

had the opportunity and had taken the opportunity to go and spend the

time in the area of operations, in the whole area out there. But I can

recall so many things that people just are not aware of here.

I remember being in Tikrit. Tikrit is where they had the Iraqi

security forces building that was blown up. Forty of them were either--

these are Iraqi security trainees--40 either were killed or were

injured so that they would not be able to go back to the fields. You

know, the families--you do not hear about this--of all 40 of these

supplied the one who had died with another member of the family. In

other words, they have this commitment that is so strong.

I asked the general yesterday, I said: Are you still getting the

family support that I witnessed when I was over there?

He said: It is even stronger now. They are lined up and talking about

it.

The Iraqi security forces in Fallujah--now, that was a great

experience that I had, having the honor of being there during two of

their elections. The Iraqi security forces go out and vote the day

before the rest of the public votes for two reasons: one, so they can

provide security for the public when they vote, and the second reason

is that they go out there knowing that is the risky time. They are

willing to risk their lives, and several of them in the Fallujah area

died just in the process of voting.

I remember sitting down with the general--his name is General Mahdi--

and he was one, I have to say--he was the brigade commander for Saddam

Hussein. He hated Americans. He was the one who said--when they came in

there after the fall of Saddam Hussein--he was still the brigade

commander for the Iraqis until the marines came to Fallujah and started

training with the Iraqi security forces. He made the statement--he

said: We became so close to the marines--this is the general who had

been Saddam Hussein's brigade commander. He said: We became so close to

the marines that when they rotated out, we got together and we all

cried.

We went from there on up, flew in a Black Hawk, and the easiest way

to get around there is to fly low and fast over the Triangle, only to

see the little kids down there waving American flags. I just wonder, if

something like this is passed and we are telling all of those kids down

there and we are telling the Iraqi security forces that are doing so

well right now in their advanced training, that they are now on the

point of these invasions that are taking place, the defenses that are

taking place all throughout Iraq, that we are saying that we are the

cut-and-run guys, we built up your hopes, we now see an improved Iraq,

we see hospitals are opened, we see manufacturers that are making

clothing, we see girls who are going to school when this has never

happened in the history of Iraq, we have seen all of this progress, but

we are going to dump on you now.

So I just hope that we can stand back from the politics and do the

right thing and get a good resolution--defeat this bill, get it vetoed,

get a good resolution so we can finish what we started and give General

Petraeus a chance to finish what he has started so successfully.

I yield the floor.