Mr. President, I express

my appreciation to Senators KYL

and MCCAIN for the introduction of the

legislation to cause us to confront the

unacceptable behavior of North Korea.

That is a situation that is dangerous.

It is a situation that has gotten out of

hand, for a number of reasons; one of

which is, over the years, through bad

behavior, North Korea has obtained

what they consider to be benefits as a

result of misbehaving, violating world

standards. As a result of that, I think

they have been encouraged, in a way,

to continue that misbehavior. So we

need to change that cycle.

I have not studied the legislation

completely, but it strikes me as a good

step in sending a message that this

Congress and this country will not continue

to reward bad behavior.

This time last year—maybe just

about this time—I was in Korea, and I

went just across the DMZ, as you can

do, in that building that splits the

boundary line, and actually had a few

minutes in North Korea. It is a remarkable

situation in so many ways.

South Korea is one of the most booming

economies in the world. Buildings

are going up everywhere. Interstates

with cloverleafs are all around Seoul.

We flew all over the country in helicopters,

visiting our military bases and

air bases. And you could see it so clearly.

There are traffic jams. People are

well dressed. They are healthy. They

are industrious. They are highly educated

and doing very well.

In fact, while I was there I had an opportunity

to meet with a number of

Korean business leaders and to ask

them to invest $1 billion in the creation

of a world class automobile plant

in Alabama. They were considering

several locations in the United States.

They chose to take the wealth they

have created—through a free market, a

free country, with technology and

science and education—and expand

their capacity to produce world class

automobiles. And Hyundai expects to

be one of the top five automobile manufacturers

in the world in the next several

years.

Just north of that DMZ, less than—

what?—50 miles from Seoul, Korea, is

the North Korean countryside. The

people of North Korea are suffering the

most terrible privations. Starvation is

all about. This country is unable to

feed its own people.

But what do they do well? They have

a good military, which they spend millions

and millions of dollars on. They

have a State police system that oppresses

the people to a degree that is

almost unsurpassed in the world’s history.

I asked one of the American officials

at the Embassy: Why don’t we do more

to send in Radio-Free-Europe-type

messages to the people? Let’s send in a

‘‘Radio-Free North Korea,’’ as Senator

KYL proposes in this legislation. And

he said: Well, it’s much more difficult

than you think. For example, the TV

sets the people can obtain, have only

three channels, and all of those channels

are full-time government channels.

Thus, one can’t send in a television

message. And they asserted

there are similar problems even with

radios in North Korea.

This is a nation that has suffered the

most oppression of almost any nation I

can name. Their oppression is as systematic

and as deliberate as one can

imagine. And the results are so stark,

so dramatic.

Many people have seen the famous

and stunning photograph of the Korean

peninsula at night. In it, you can see

the DMZ. You can also see south of the

demilitarized zone into South Korea.

There are lights everywhere in South

Korea. You can see into China and

there are lights everywhere, but North

Korea is just dark, without electricity,

without lights, for the people. How

long does this continue? What plan do

we have to try to change this situation?

The President has expressed concern

about it. From the world leaders and

the Europeans and others who like to

be engaged in these issues, do I hear

sufficient outrage as to the moral

unacceptability of what is occurring in

this country? If there is any decency, if

there is any concern for fellow human

beings anywhere in the world, we ought

to be outraged by what is happening to

the good people of North Korea who

have little if any chance to free themselves

from this oppression.

They say we have to send aid and

food and other things or else the country

might implode. We know people are

dying now. We know the population of

North Korea is shrinking. We know the

population of North Korea has fallen to

probably half that of the population in

South Korea and just in the last 20

years. How much worse could an implosion

be? What should we think and how

should we analyze this situation?

I will have more to say about it, but

any humane, forward-looking foreign

policy ought to consider what we can

do to change the fundamental nature of

the Government in North Korea. It is

oppressing its people to an extraordinary

degree. Through threats and

bluster, we have been allowing North

Korea to obtain benefits pursuant to

agreements. Now they have admitted

before the entire world, flat out, that

the benefits they have been receiving

pursuant to the agreement with the

United States and the Clinton administration

were built on a lie, that they

were, in fact, in violation of the very

agreement they signed.

The Economist magazine had an interesting

piece recently that said, yes,

agreements are good in the world. Multilateral

agreements are good. Bilateral

agreements are good. Peace agreements

are good. But they said this:

What happens when the country

doesn’t abide by it? What happens

when they say they are going to do

something and just don’t do it? If there

are no consequences for their failure to

comply with solemn agreements that

they have made, presumably for the

good of the region and the world and

their own nation, then what is going to

occur here? Are we not creating a circumstance

where a country may conclude

that they may, indeed, gain by a

lie, gain by cheating, gain by threatening

and destabilizing and selling

weapons around the world?

We need to reexamine our policy. We

need to understand that this is not a

normal regime in North Korea. This is

an abnormal regime of the worst kind.

It is hurting its own people more than

anything else. It is threatening the stability

of that region and the world.

Something needs to be done about it.

We cannot continue to ignore it.

One thing we cannot do, we cannot

expect to sign an agreement with them

and expect it to be honored because

their history is not to honor agreements.

I support the legislation. We need to

do something such as this and move it

forward. We need to strengthen our relationship

with South Korea. They

have so much to offer to the world. We

need to do what we can to change that

regime in North Korea that is so

unhealthy, a regime that is doing so

much damage and threatening the stability

and safety and security of the

world.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence

of a quorum.