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FLOOR DEBATE

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has arrived and some of them are not going to be allowed to leave when they're supposed to. That's crushing. Some, who were these weekend soldiers in the National Guard, joined the National Guard because they were told they could make money, a little extra change on the side, they could get tuition assistance to go to school, they could learn a trade or a profession that they could use in making a living on the outside. They did not contemplate combat and are not seriously trained for combat, but when the call came, they had to go and some of them died. And they were given inferior equipment, helicopters, armored vehicles that had armor that was too thin, some Humvees that had no armor at all, and in some of the locations around the country the units were trying to put armor of their own on these vehicles that their young men and women would be riding when they got to Iraq, waiting to be blown up by a homemade roadside bomb for Halliburton, Bush, and Dick Cheney, the man of a thousand lies. That's what young people are facing. That is real. But why is it never discussed on this floor, when we get caught up in talking about zygotes, embryos and fetuses, but nothing about the young people who are full-fledged human beings being exploited by their own government, lied to by their own government, misused and mistreated by their own government? They are starting to die again in Afghanistan, a place where people have forgotten, but the young men and women there have not forgotten it, nor the families who are told, oh, by the way, your young man, your young woman got killed in Afghanistan fighting for American freedom so that Halliburton can get a contract...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to rebuild Iraq. The families wonder why nobody from the Bush administration attends any of the funerals of these young men and women. They wonder why the media have been banned from covering the return of these young men and women. That's what Bush does, and then he has all these people running around here talking about they're patriotic and to be patriotic they've got to go along with the politician. That's not what patriotism is. Is this my third time, Mr. President?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Second time.