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FLOOR DEBATE

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suicides at a greater rate than ordinarily occurs in a combat situation, and this is not one of those activities where America ever was menaced, ever was threatened. And the reason that was given for being there, which I criticized at the time, even before a person was killed in Iraq, and for which I was criticized, now turns out in the way that I said. The reason given was a sham. The public was lied to. There was a grudge that young Bush had because of the way old Bush had been handled badly by Iraq and Saddam Hussein. So no bushes are being trimmed in Iraq, but the children, the fathers, the mothers, the daughters, the cousins, the nephews, the family members of other families are dying over there while Bush smirks, while he sneers, while he has his parties, while he campaigns and raises tons of money, and the young people continue to die. How can we avoid discussing those things when we have a bill such as the one before us now? Doesn't anybody realize that these people who are in the National Guard in Nebraska right now can be called to active duty and sent to Iraq? You know what some of the young people are cheering about? The fact that they're getting, I call them, flak jackets. They're getting body armor. They did not have that, and not all of them have it now, and not all of them have the quality that they ought to have. But I suppose wearing something that feels heavy and hot gives a sense of comfort. The vehicles are not armored in the way they need to be, yet, they're over there. Young people are dying in them. Before I came here today I heard that two more young people were killed in roadside bombings today. There was another one yesterday, and there were several since Thursday, when we were last here. Why does nobody want to talk about it? When these coffins draped in flags come back, why do people avert their eyes and act as though that's not a reality?

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There might be some dying while we talk now, and I'm going to use those opportunities to remind us of what is happening. This is not theory like it is to the politicians, where they might have a map somewhere and a certain color thumbtack represents so many young American people, and you move the thumbtack from one spot to another on the map, but on the ground when that movement is made you put all these young people