

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Senator Salazar,

In response to your *Democratic Preview Address on the SOTU* presented January 19, 2007 over Spanish radio I would like to ask a couple questions and make a few comments. I will also state this is the first time I have actively engaged a representative in regards to policy and the state of *our* country.

I am a resident of Pueblo Colorado and I Voted for you during the senate election. I consider myself affiliated to the United States of America and not one particular party. I am an American and feel the good of America should be first and foremost in all who reside in this great country.

In your opening statement you speak of the wishes of many for a new day. I too wish we weren't in Iraq or any other foreign land. I wish we were able to have all our troops home and out of harms way. However, I - and many people whom I am in contact with on a daily basis - feel it is better to engage the enemy or terrorist on their land and not in America. I am grateful to our troops and their leaders who have the courage to do what they feel is right for America as well as the citizens of foreign countries who have no one to help fight for their rights.

It is hard to know what the truth in our world is anymore. We have Republicans blaming the Democrats we have Democrats blaming the Republicans. We have the press who will put any slant on a story if it creates more sensationalism for their network or print media. We have become a nation of circus performers and it scares us (the average US Citizen)!

The values you speak of in your speech... are these not the same values all Americans believe in? If so, then why all the debate on achieving a common goal? It personally does not matter to me who gets the credit for making America a better place for the citizens of America. Let's just make America a better place for it's citizens.

The change of course suggested in Iraq may be a good idea. Let's bring our troops home. Let's bring them home to fight terrorists on our land. If we walk out of the Middle East at this point it will strengthen the terrorists bravado. It will show the world that America will back down in the face of evil, or the press. The hate of America did not happen over night nor will it go away over night. The traditions of the Middle East seem to be the teaching of hate. This cannot be resolved in a few short months or even years. We need to develop a plan and stick with it.

I agree with the thought Iraqis need to take more responsibility to secure their nation and security. Let's not tie their hands by pulling our support. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue. If it was then the question could be raised why Democratic Presidents did not address the issues during their time in office? This has been a growing problem for decades. Under both Democratic and Republican Presidents.

If you and your party are serious about solving the crisis, then your and your Republican counterparts need to develop a means of working together as Americans, not politicians. Please do this for the sake of America and not party lines.

The statement concerning lives lost in Iraq is puzzling. You state, "More than 3,000 U.S. soldiers have given their lives..." then you go on to say "Many of whom are Latinos". I am sure you are not implying the Latino life is worth more than a Black, White, or Asian life. In the beginning of the statement you had it correct. "U.S. Soldiers" – no more needs said. It is time we start looking at ourselves as Americans and not Latino, African-American, Asian-American, Mexican-American, German-American, or any other "____-American" we need to start looking at ourselves as Americans and come together as ONE NATION.

Concerning the remarks America is not as safe as it can – or should be. You are absolutely correct. Again, if we bring our troops home this statement will be even more true than it is today. North Korea and Iran did not just start developing a nuclear program. This has been going on for years – under both Democratic and Republican Presidencies. It is a definite concern, please let's stop politicizing this problem and work on a solution.

Our military was reduced under Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton Presidencies. Both Democratic presidents. Please work on the commitment you stated to strengthen our military and let's keep it strong. We may need a strong military to repel terrorism on U.S. soil if we pull out of the Middle East.

Latin America is a good neighbor. And like our neighbors at home, they have issues and problems they need help with. Instead of programs in America why don't we help our neighbors to the south develop and build their economy? The result would make it more inviting to stay and support their home economy. I have no problem with any citizen of any foreign country coming to the U.S. and trying to better themselves. If it had not been for our ancestors where would we be today? The issue is fairness in immigration. We need to secure our borders and allow legal and lawful immigration. How we do this... again we all need to come together as Americans and work the problem.

I would like to ask a question concerning U.S. citizenship... Why does America grant citizenship status to any baby born in America? Are we the only country to allow this extremely easy method of citizenship to happen? I personally feel a change is needed.

When it comes to our dependence on foreign oil I agree 100% with you. We as a nation have become content with getting up and going whenever we please. I feel the Nation needs to work on developing new fuels, more efficient mass transportation, and conservation of the resources we already are consuming.

