Briefly, Mr. President, with regard to the President's

remarks last night, I think the American people would like to see us

prevail in Iraq, succeed in Iraq. And the definition of ``success,''

obviously, would be a stable government and an ally in the war on

terror. What prevents that is violence in Baghdad.

This plan announced last night to clear and hold Baghdad

neighborhoods gives the capital city a chance to quiet down, to create

the kind of secure environment that will allow this fledgling democracy

to begin to function.

I think the President should be given a chance to carry this out.

Rather than condemn it before it even starts, it seems to me it would

be appropriate to give it a chance to succeed. If it could succeed, it

would be an enormous step forward in the war on terror.

Finally, let me say, it is no accident we have not been attacked

again here for the last 5 years. I hope no one believes that is a quirk

of fate. The reason we have not been attacked again here at home for

the last 5 years is because we have been on offense in Afghanistan and

Iraq. Many of the terrorists are now dead, many are incarcerated,

others are hiding and on the run.

The policy of being on offense has been 100 percent successful in

protecting our homeland, and we are grateful for that, that no

Americans have been attacked for 5 years.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.