Madam President, yesterday the U.S. Conference of Mayors

highlighted the toll of the Iraq war, the toll it is taking on our

health, safety, and well-being here at home, by voting for a resolution

to bring the war to a responsible end. Stanford, CT, Mayor Dan Malloy

said the war has drained desperately needed funds from classrooms and

municipal services. David Cicilline, Mayor of Providence, RI, said:

The mayors understand this as much as any other political body in the

country. They are the ones who are seeing that desperately needed funds

are not going to projects they believe are so important to their

constituents, the people who live within those cities, because the

money is going at the rate of $10 billion a month to Iraq. I appreciate

the Conference of Mayors for taking the important stand they did.

Finally, last evening, just before the Senate went out, Richard

Lugar, former chairman of the Agriculture Committee, the Foreign

Relations Committee, and ranking member on the Foreign Relations

Committee today, made a very important speech, one of the most

important speeches we have had in the Senate in a long time. He is a

soft-spoken man and doesn't really talk a lot. He is a Rhodes scholar,

a brilliant man, an academic with experience, prior to coming here, as

mayor of one of the major cities in America. I appreciate what he did

last night, what he said last night. On foreign policy, he has the

credentials to speak.

I recommend and suggest to all Senators, Democrats and Republicans,

that they read the brilliant speech given by Dick Lugar last night. It

was very good. It was, I am sure, prepared by him, every word. I

understand it is not easy to speak out against the war. I can vouch for

that. I also recognize how difficult it is for Republicans to speak out

against the war. It has been hard enough for this Democrat to speak out

against the war. Senator Lugar's comments and those of a handful of

other Republicans who share his view--to this point, two have said so

publicly--takes real courage. Courage is the only way we will change

course in Iraq.

Some floor speeches go unnoticed. Most floor speeches go unnoticed.

Senator Richard Lugar's speech last night is not one of them. When this

war comes to an end--and it will come to an end--and the history books

are written--and they will be written--Senator Lugar's words yesterday

could be remembered as a turning point in this intractable civil war in

Iraq. But that will depend on whether more Republicans take the stand

Senator Lugar took, a courageous stand, last night.

I look forward to working with Senator Lugar--and hope and believe a

growing number of Republicans--to put his words into action by

delivering a responsible end to the war that the American people demand

and the American people deserve.