Mr. President, the world has witnessed something in the

last few weeks about the treatment of prisoners in Iraq that does not

represent what America is all about. It doesn't represent our cause. It

doesn't represent our mission. It doesn't represent our hopes and

dreams for the Iraqi people and for all of us--ultimately for democracy

in Iraq.

I applaud the President of the United States for his speaking out,

condemning without qualification what has occurred. He, as I understand

it, went forth to speak to the Arab world, face to face, the leader of

the free world speaking to the Arab world to let them know this is not

what America is all about. I think that is important. We all, at every

level, have to reject it. Those who are responsible at every level have

to be held to account. I know the Commander in Chief will do that.

As we deal with this terrible situation, I hope we do not lose focus

on our

mission. Our men and women are in harm's way and our mission is freedom

and security in Iraq. The critics of this war, do they want us to cut

and run? Do they want to create a place of instability, a haven for

terrorism? I can't believe that.

Someone once said a critic is someone who thinks he knows the way but

doesn't know how to drive the car. It is not a time for critics. Let us

deal with this terrible incident. Let us show America has standards and

America is there for a reason. The reason is one of hope. The reason is

one of freedom. What occurred is something that will never occur again.

I am confident our President will make sure of that.

At the same time, we have to stand with our President, stand with our

troops. Teddy Roosevelt once said it is not the critic who counts, but

it is the person in the arena. It is a tough arena right now. But the

cause is just. We have lost life and it is a sacrifice, but the cause

is just. We have seen that with Qadhafi giving up his nuclear weapons

programs, Iran understanding the serious consequences of their action.

Let us be true to the cause. Let us ferret out those who committed

these reprehensible acts. Let us support the President going forth to

the world, to the Arab community, to say this is wrong. Let us continue

to stay true to the course, to understand that the lives that have been

sacrificed have not been sacrificed in vain, that the world is safer

today. It is safer with Saddam gone. It will be safer with peace and

stability and democracy in the Middle East.

I yield the floor.