Mr. President, following the other two speakers in

regard to Iraq, I want to say a couple things. No. 1, anybody who

criticizes what the President is proposing or anybody else is proposing

or what has been done cannot get away with criticizing. There has to be

another plan. I want to hear plans from people who think that what the

President is doing is wrong. What would they do?

The second thing is that even the Iraq Study Group, which is very

bipartisan, said there should not be a precipitous withdrawal from

Iraq.

In regard to what my distinguished leader of the Republican caucus

had to

say, that there has not been any attack on Americans in the 5 years

since 9/11, those who are criticizing our efforts on the war against

terror would be the first ones, if we had an attack this very day, of

criticizing the President of the United States: Why wasn't he on top to

prevent some sort of attack? And because America has not been attacked,

there tends to be a short memory about the fact that we did lose 3,000

Americans. And we know it can happen again.

We know that terrorists came into O'Hare with the idea of a dirty

bomb in America. We know there were people who were going to blow up

bridges in New York City who were caught and the plans known. We

individual Senators have been told by the CIA and by the FBI about many

instances of where terrorist attacks against Americans have been

stopped, and American lives have not been lost because of that. But

they cannot talk about it because we do not want the terrorists to know

what we know about them.

Too much attention on Iraq detracts from the fact that there are

terrorists in 60 different countries around the world waiting to kill

Americans. Evidence of that was American military people working with

the Filipinos over the weekend to kill two terrorists connected with

radical religious groups.

We finally were able to get at some of the people who should have

been arrested in the previous administration, if a proper relations

with Saudi Arabia had brought it about, who thought up the bombing of

the embassies in east Africa when 12 Americans were killed and 200

other people were killed. We believe one of those persons was killed in

a strike we were making in Somalia over the weekend. So we are involved

in more than just Iraq in the war on terror.

People who forget what happened to America on 9/11, and if it

happened again, some of the people who are criticizing what the

President is doing would be there saying, as they were soon after

September 11: Why wasn't the President on top of what happened on

September 11 so it wouldn't happen again, when there were five

instances of Americans being killed: 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, before

2001, and this body passed the Iraqi Liberation Act unanimously in 1998

because President Clinton was saying what a threat Saddam Hussein was

to the United States or to the world as well and that he had to go.

When you have that bipartisan support at a time when Americans are

being attacked and killed--in 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999, before 9/11

somewhere around the world--you have to stop to think, it isn't just

Iraq. It isn't just Afghanistan. It isn't just 9/11. These religious

radicals have been out to kill Americans going way back to 250 marines

being killed in Lebanon in 1983. And there are individual instances of

terrorism before that.

The war on terrorism isn't something new. What is going on in Iraq is

not the war on terrorism. What is going on in Afghanistan is not the

war on terrorism. The war on terrorism covers many nations, many

threats to American people. The life of every one of us in this Chamber

right now, if we were to go over to some parts of the world, would be

threatened. We expect the President of the United States to protect us

because he is Commander in Chief and because the responsibility of the

Federal Government under the Constitution, No. 1, is the protection of

the American people.