Mr. President, will the Senator from New Hampshire yield

for a question?

I agree with the argument the Senator from New Hampshire

has made about the importance of our prosecuting the war against terror

and particularly what has been called by the terrorists themselves

in Iraq.

Some of our colleagues have introduced a resolution, which the

Senator has spoken to, which is a nonbinding sense-of-the-Senate

resolution. I heard others this morning talk about imposing caps on the

number of troops we might deploy there.

I ask the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, if it is so

important that we not fail in Iraq and that the region not descend into

either a failed state or a launching pad for future terrorist attacks

or a regional conflict ensue, does he not believe it would be important

for those who criticize the President's announced plan to offer a

constructive alternative of their own, if they believe that the

President's chosen plan is not the best course of action?

If the Senator will yield for one final question.

Notwithstanding the fact that we have a number of our

colleagues running for President of the United States in 2008, and

notwithstanding the fact that obviously we have Senators of different

party affiliation, Republican and Democrat, isn't a matter of national

security exactly the kind of issue that should rise above partisan

divisions and upon which we should work to find common ground so we can

protect the national security of the United States? I ask the Senator

whether he believes that perhaps we have let our guard down and let

this discourse become too political in nature rather than solution

oriented?