Mr. President, I wish to speak just for a few minutes

this morning, especially in light of the wonderful

speech we heard from the interim Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Allawi.

I had the tremendous privilege, back in June, to meet with Mr.

Allawi.

I found him to be very articulate and a true visionary for his

country. This is a man who has a target marked on his chest and on his

back wherever he will go in the world. It is critical that we do

everything we can, along with the Iraqi security forces, to protect him

and other leaders there. They are truly in the line of fire. There are

many who would want to assassinate Mr. Allawi because they do not want

to see freedom and democracy progress in Iraq.

The speech Prime Minister Allawi gave this morning was heartfelt. You

could tell he appreciated what America and Americans families, along

with our coalition partners, have sacrificed for the liberation of

Iraq. Mr. Allawi made reference to a few things which I believe, as a

country, we need to acknowledge. The only way for the terrorists and

the insurgents to win is if America loses its way and loses its will.

Terrorists look for ways to disrupt and to win over public opinion

because they know they cannot win militarily. We have not lost a single

battle or military engagement in the last 3 years in Iraq or

Afghanistan. Our military is so superior that the battles are not even

close. We win every single one. So the terrorists know that the only

way they can win is if they succeed in shifting public opinion back

here at home. That is what the purpose of the terrorist attacks in

Spain. They wanted to shift public opinion far enough to incite change,

which they succeeded at doing. It decided the Spanish election and

prompted Spain to pull out of Iraq.

We have to send a strong signal. Whether you are Republican or

Democrat, whether you are for the war or against the war, it is

critical that we as Americans stand together and send a message

overseas, the way our foreign policy to do. We used to stand together

as Republicans and Democrats and say partisanship stopped at the

water's edge. We once again need to assert that ideal. We need to say

to those who would come against us who would rise against the spread of

freedom, the opportunity for people to live and worship how they want

to and have the freedoms that we enjoy in many parts of the world--we

need to say very clearly that we will not allow them to win. We will

not allow this radical form of Islam to take over the world.

There is a battle of cultures. We must realize that. The radicals,

the ones who want to win the hearts and minds of most of the Muslims

around the world, are a small percentage. But we cannot allow them to

win at this point. It is critical that we stay strong. We must send a

message that our resolve is not going to waiver. We are not going to

allow this to affect our elections. We are not going to allow

terrorists to win here in the United States.

There are people--and they are good Americans, solid Americans--who

are against this war, who have been against it since the beginning. I

plead with those in our country to look at the message that division in

our country sends to those who would attack us, who would come against

us. The old saying ``united we stand, divided we fall'' is as true

today as it has always been. The more we show that we are united in

this global war on terrorism, the less likelihood that the terrorists

will continue. The terrorists must see that public opinion cannot be

shifted because of the latest bombing or the latest beheading or any

other horrific acts they may try to inflict on us. The more apparent

our unity, the stronger our resolve, the less chance they will have to

recruit new, young volunteers as suicide bombers. The less money they

will be able to recruit from wealthy people around the world who are

financing some of these activities.

We are in the middle of a Presidential election. We realize that. It

important that we have strong, steady leadership, leadership that I

believe we have in President Bush. It is at a time of criticality to

our country and our foreign policy that our leadership carry us through

the next few years and send a message to the rest of the world that we

are going to stand strong, that we are going to stay the course.

Let me conclude with this: There are naysayers who believe democracy

cannot work in the Middle East, that the only type of governments they

can have over there are either dictatorships or some type of a

religious theocracy. Prime Minister Allawi clearly addressed that today

and spoke on behalf of the Iraqi people hungering for freedom and

democracy. We must be successful in helping them to achieve that.

Staying the course, whatever it takes, is critical not only for Iraq

but for the larger global war on terrorism and to our own security here

at home.

If we weren't fighting in Iraq, I can guarantee you, we would be

fighting here against terrorists on our own soil. Our military is much

more prepared for that battle than our civilians are. We are in a

dangerous, different world today. We must realize that.