Mr. President, I am privileged to serve on the committee

with the Senator. There has been criticism, raising the inference that

we have not in the Senate been addressing this with the depth and

sincerity and interest we should.

I take great umbrage at that. Under the leadership of the chairman

and, indeed, myself, we are the ones who brought David Kay up. We are

the ones who put David Kay on the stand, the Intelligence Committee

first, and before the Armed Services Committee immediately following,

and subjected him to cross-examination after the delivery of his

report. His report is a mixed one in certain ways, in my judgment, but

nevertheless in no way were we not taking the initiative to bring this

to the forefront.

I say also, yesterday the Armed Services Committee heard from the

Secretary of Defense. The distinguished chairman was present. He is a

member of that committee. Again, the first questions on WMD and

precisely the question of whether or not there was any manipulation or

distortion came from the Chair, myself, addressed directly to the

Secretary.

Any objective analysis of the reports out of that hearing this

morning--it was covered by the press--he faced it head on and answered

those questions.

As we are speaking, I just departed the television where Director

Tenet is now addressing the Nation. So I think the President and his

principal deputies are facing square on these complex issues, as is the

Senate.

I commend the chairman, and perhaps he will agree with my

observations.

Mr. President, I thank the Senator.