Mr. President, I am really delighted, after some of the

things I have read and heard this morning. I decided last night to make

the speech I am about to make. This morning, I want to go back to the

speech the President made on Monday evening and go back to the

President's clarion call for us to unite as a nation behind our effort

to win the war on terror.

During the past 3 days--first Monday, September 11, where we all

honored and mourned the tragic loss of 3,000 citizens, through today--I

have read constant editorials and listened to numerous speeches that

imply to me that that sense of unity doesn't really exist. I think the

President was right to call for unity.

This morning I rise in an effort to have us focus on what we are

really all about, not to point fingers or castigate anybody but to talk

about what I believe is the ultimate war between good and evil. What

happened on September 11 in 2001 was one of the most tragic events in

the history of mankind. What the United States did, and what this

President declared, by changing our policy from one of reaction to one

of preemption was precisely the right thing to do. There is no doubt

that in the last 5 years mistakes have been made. But there is no doubt

that the greatest mistake would have been not to respond. It is now

time for us to resolve to support this country, our men and women in

harm's way, our intelligence agencies, with a resolve to see

it through to its conclusion, understanding that it is going to be a

long and difficult battle.

We should not forget that the Cold War lasted half a century. As a

youngster at R.L. Hope Elementary School in Atlanta, GA, I remember

every week we practiced climbing under our desks as we did drills

because we feared a nuclear attack from the Soviet Union. It was only

when the Berlin Wall came down in the 1990s and communism was finally

defeated that the Cold War ended.

This war could be as long and as difficult. But it is different. We

fight an enemy with no uniforms, no diplomats, and no capital. It

doesn't want what we have. They don't want us to have what we have.

They don't want us to have the freedom of speech--for me to do what I

am doing here--or for the press to criticize it. They don't want you to

be able to bear arms if you are a law-abiding citizen or to go to

church on Saturday or Sunday and worship or to not worship at all or

the way you want. They don't want you to have the freedom to assemble

and gather.

They are using those very inalienable rights of ours against us today

and, in some cases, some of us are unwitting accomplices in that

criticism. By way of example, we argue and parse about issues of

interrogation and some issues of intelligence and surveillance, when

every day that we fail to act the other side uses that against us to

try to find a way to break us and kill American citizens. How else in

the 21st century, in a world of computers and digital technology and

cellular technology, can we track terrorists if we cannot listen to

them? How in the world can we learn about those who would kill innocent

Americans if we cannot interrogate them?

There was an editorial in the Monday paper, September 11, 2006, 5

years after 9/11, in my hometown paper, the Atlanta Constitution. It

said, That is a

great headline. They are right. One of the great ideals that the

American people have is that we don't quit. We didn't quit in our

revolution or in our Civil War or in World War I and World War II, and

we cannot quit now. In this editorial, criticizing us in terms of

Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib, who is the moral authority quoted? None

other than Osama bin Laden. The man that is quoted as questioning

America's values is the man that relishes cutting off the heads of

innocent American citizens, the man who takes pride in calling out and

charging terrorists with attacking American citizens on 9/11, and the

man who to this very day plots to kill innocent Americans.

We must listen to what they are saying, track what they are doing.

When we capture them, we must get the intelligence necessary to save

innocent lives. We must unite as a country, a media, political parties,

and as a people to stand steadfastly behind this effort and see it

through to conclusion.

I personally submit that we are getting pretty close. I think the

fact that they are concentrating in Baghdad, the fact that we have seen

what we have seen in terms of them trying to portray a civil war is

because we have had them on the run and it is their last stand. You

see, terrorism doesn't have to beat us on the battlefield. They only

have to make us quit and come home. Then they can declare victory. We

cannot let that happen.

I conclude my remarks by admonishing all of us, myself included, to

join together to find solutions to move forward and support this effort

to its conclusion and to its success. We should not tie the hands of

our Armed Forces or our intelligence networks behind their backs. We

should instead put our arms around them and embrace them, let them

charge ahead and continue to track our enemies wherever they are and

find out the information that is necessary. Then, and only then, will

we be equalized in the war on terror and ultimately prevail.

I yield the floor.