Mr. President, I join my colleague, Senator Isakson from

Georgia, in calling for the ceasing of this politicizing of a very

important effort and the need to unify as a nation. As we commemorate

the fifth anniversary of 9/11, I was reminded of how far we have come

since that terrible day in securing America's homeland against future

attacks, and how much further we have left to go.

I am thankful to be part of a Republican majority that is taking real

action to make America safer, to secure our borders first, to

strengthen port security with background checks for workers and scan

every cargo container at our busiest ports for weapons of mass

destruction.

President Bush and a Republican-led Congress have also shown

relentless determination in the war against radical Islamic terrorists

all around the world.

We prevented further attacks by uncovering and stopping 15 major

terrorist plots against America and likely many others which are not

public knowledge. We have frozen $1.5 billion in terrorists' assets in

the United States through economic sanctions. We have implemented 37 of

39 recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. And we have liberated more

than 50 million Afghans and Iraqis from despotism, permitting the first

free elections in either country.

Just this week, the Senate took another important step to keep

America's families safe by voting unanimously to pass the WARN Act, an

important piece of legislation that will modernize our severely

outdated emergency alert system using everyday technology such as cell

phones and Blackberrys.

Meanwhile, and unfortunately, Democrats are trying to kill the port

security bill by tying it up with political amendments--once again

proving that they are willing to put their hope of winning an election

ahead of the security of our country.

Unfortunately, during this election year, many of my Democratic

colleagues seem more interested in posturing and pointing fingers than

in putting forward serious proposals about how to deal with the ongoing

terrorist threat. They accuse President Bush and Republicans of being

satisfied with the status quo. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Republican-led Congress has actively fought to secure America's

homeland by funding critical ongoing needs of our troops and by

increasing funds for border security, while Democrats have blocked

commonsense efforts such as stopping the catch-and-release program for

illegal immigrants which encourages more and more illegal immigration

in this country.

The Democrats have blocked, or tried to block, the renewing of the

PATRIOT Act, but we have been able to pass it despite the Democratic

leader's claims to have killed it.

The Republican Congress is defending the use of military intelligence

and law enforcement resources that have led to the capture of many of

al-Qaida's top leaders and have helped to degrade al-Qaida's

capabilities around the world. But these very techniques were

criticized by my distinguished Democratic colleague this morning on the

floor. We have to use the technology available to us to track

communications, to stop financing of terrorism around the world, and if

we don't we put our country at risk.

The Republicans have supported strong nominees for critical national

security and foreign policy positions, such as U.N. Ambassador John

Bolton, despite Democratic obstruction.

Again, despite continued Democratic obstruction, Republicans will

continue to push a comprehensive agenda to secure America's homeland

that will strengthen our borders with additional border agents, enforce

immigration laws with worker verification, secure our ports with worker

background checks, and support surveillance to find and stop terrorists

before they strike.

What is the Democratic plan? The latest Democratic plan to secure our

country is to complain about Donald Rumsfeld, to send a letter to the

President telling him to do things in Iraq that have already been

implemented and, as we heard this morning, to complain about the

listening or tracking of phone calls from known terrorists.

I can't put it any better than my good friend, the Senator from

Kentucky, Mr. Mitch McConnell, who recently said while talking about

Democrats' cut-and-run strategy:

Whether they call it redeployment or phased withdrawal, the effect is

the

same: they would leave Americans more vulnerable and Iraqis at the

mercy of al-Qaida, a terrorist group whose aim toward Iraqis and

Americans is clear.

If Democrats spent half as much time fighting terrorists as they do

this administration, America would win this war a lot faster.

Democrats claim to be the only ones who care about what Americans

think, but Americans can see through their posturing. Compassionate

rhetoric without a real plan for action is nothing more than an empty

promise.

Republicans are committed to securing our homeland and have backed up

that talk with action. Like my colleague, Senator Isakson, I invite my

Democratic colleagues to join us in honoring the sacrifice of those who

have already given their lives for freedom by providing real hope and

security for all Americans instead of just partisan rhetoric.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a

quorum.