Mr. President, I wanted to ask the Senator a

question, but first I want to thank him for his very thoughtful and

almost scholarly exposition of an examination of the situation in which

we find ourselves in Iraq. I thank him for the service to his country,

first in State government, rising to the position of Governor of his

State, and now these many years as the Senator from West Virginia.

The question I want to ask the Senator is, in his statement about the

antipathy between Sunnis and Shiites--and he noted the historical

antipathy as it goes back, he said, to the time of Muhammad. Indeed, we

saw that first erupt from--I guess it was Muhammad's grandson at the

Battle of Karbala in 680 A.D., and as a result of the murder--or the

defeat of the grandson at that point, it was that group that was

defeated that went on, out of revenge, to become the Shiites--a

minority among all Muslims but nevertheless one that was potent and

built on revenge. Is this the understanding of history the Senator from

West Virginia recalls in his statement and why it is so difficult for

us as an outside power to come in, in the middle of that sectarian

strife, and try to bring about reconciliation?