Mr. President, for the past several days, I have

followed the remarks of the senior Senator from Massachusetts relative

to Iraq and the war on terrorism. He likes to talk more about yesterday

and not as much about tomorrow. He finds fault in everything that the

President and his team have done to protect our lives, our liberties,

and our way of life. He interprets facts to fit his dismal view of

Iraq.

What bothers me the most about his many public statements condemning

the war in Iraq is that he does so while we still have troops engaged

in securing that country. These troops know it is vital--absolutely

vital--for the long-term security of the United States and our allies

that they succeed in helping Iraq become a free and democratic country.

The most recent edition of the Army Times newspaper contains a very

telling survey of Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard troops on

their views of Iraq and the Presidential race which bears out this

point. This is the October 11th edition of the Army Times.

I ask unanimous consent that the article, which appears beginning on

page 14, be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in

the Record, as follows:

Mr. President, the caption is: ``Troops sound off. Who

do you choose for President and why?''

Among Active-Duty forces, 66 percent in this poll said the most

important issue for them in deciding for whom to vote is the war in

Iraq. In the same poll, 60 percent said they approve of the way

President Bush is handling the situation in Iraq, and 72 percent said

if the Presidential election were held today, they would vote for

President Bush. That is quite a statement of support for the Commander

in Chief and his policies in Iraq from those who are actually doing the

fighting and the dirty work to bring security and prosperity to that

country.

Even more significant are the results from the Reserve and National

Guard troops who have been called to active duty and deployed to Iraq.

Among this group, 72 percent said the most important issue for them is

the war in Iraq; 63 percent approve of the President's policies in

Iraq; and a full 76 percent of the Reserve and National Guard soldiers

who have actually been deployed to a combat zone said they are planning

on voting for President Bush. These are amazing figures from both our

Active Duty and Reserve Forces that tell us much more about what is

going on in Iraq than just the reports of the bombings and kidnaping.

Listening to the assessments from my colleague from Massachusetts

begs the question: Why do the vast majority of our soldiers and marines

engaged in ground operations in Iraq appreciate the importance of our

mission there and believe they are engaged in a historical struggle

that will lead to a better world and a safer America when a senior

Senator cannot see the same thing? Are they right or is he right?

As I reflect on the words of the Senator from Massachusetts, I am

reminded of that famous quotation made by McLandburgh Wilson:

When it comes to Iraq and the war on terrorism, my colleague from

Massachusetts sees the hole, when he should be seeing the doughnut.

I suspect that nothing we say in this Chamber will change his views

on the issue. Nevertheless, I feel obligated to make some remarks about

why our troops are fighting in Iraq, and why some are giving the

ultimate sacrifice for our country. It is important for our troops and

their families to know that not all Senators only see the ``hole.''

Our policy in Iraq should not be viewed in isolation. The issue is

far more complex than that. It is important to understand the linkage

between the Islamic terrorists who want to destroy us and the

totalitarian regimes under which so many of them were raised. People

who have such a deranged view of a Supreme Being that they believe

their religion sanctions their own suicide, while killing innocent

people, and do not come from free, open, and democratic countries and

societies.

Let me explain how I look at Iraq and the war on terrorism. If we

look at each incident individually, each bombing, each hostage taking,

each killing, et cetera, we get one impression of these events. What we

should do instead is put ourselves in the place of an eagle soaring

high and looking down on everything that is going on inside of Iraq.

When we take the eagle's view, this is what we see: Iraq is no longer

a sanctuary for terrorists, it is no longer a country that threatens

its neighbors, and it is no longer a threat to world peace and order.

The insurgency in Iraq is confined to 3 of the 18 provinces, and the

country is preparing for its first democratic election only 4 months

from now.

Iraqi leaders, Iraqi soldiers, and Iraqi policemen are stepping

forward in the thousands to take back their country from the

terrorists.

All we have to do to see what progress is being made in this area is

to look at the success we have had just over this weekend. It was not

just American troops who had success in Samarra, one of the most

violent places inside of Iraq; it was the now-trained Iraqi security

police who fought side by side with the American troops, who received

the praise of the American troops for the training, preparation, and

the great job they did in not just helping secure the peace but driving

the insurgents out of that town and providing a safer and more secure

community in which the people could live.

America, along with many other countries, remains firm and will not

be deterred from achieving the goal of seeing a democracy in Iraq.

There is a realistic understanding of the difficulties and dangers in

Iraq, but there are also visionary, optimistic leaders in Iraq and in

the many countries that make up the multinational force who are

determined to see the insurgency fail.

There have been many references to the July 2004 National

Intelligence Estimate, or the NIE. In fact, Senator Kennedy said in

this Chamber on 29 September 2004 that the best case scenario in that

NIE was that violence in Iraq would continue at current levels, with

tenuous political and economic stability. Regardless of what this

classified NIE actually said, I do know it was based on information

that is but a snapshot in time and that time continues to move on.

There are many things visible today that were not clear when that NIE

was written. The character of the Iraqi leadership was unknown last

June, but no one who heard Prime Minister Allawi speak to the Joint

Session of Congress recently could be anything but impressed with his

enthusiasm, his intellect, and, most importantly, his determination to

see a free and safe and democratic Iraq.

Lieutenant General Petraeus has been working assiduously to build up

the Iraqi security forces. Last June, when the NIE was written, very

few of those forces had completed their training. Now trained and

competent Iraqi Army and police units are on duty and are assuming the

major role in restoring security in their own country, and the training

continues, so we can expect even more Iraqi security forces to assume

their duties every month, just as they did in Samarra this past

weekend.

We are engaged in an enormous struggle of historic proportions to see

freedom and democracy spread throughout the Islamic world, and this

will set the foundation for a final peaceful solution between Israel

and Palestine. It will also, in the long term, eliminate the

politically oppressive environment and poor economic conditions that

have been the breeding grounds for terrorists to find new recruits.

I want to say to our military personnel and their families that your

role in this historic and important struggle is the key to its success.

You will look back with pride on your contributions and your sacrifices

to make our country and the world safer. When you see what you have

accomplished from an eagle's view, you will not see the hole that a

pessimist sees.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.