Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr.

Feingold. I am very proud to be on his resolution which finally would

hold this President and his administration accountable for the

disastrous situation we find ourselves in in Iraq, a situation that has

led to now nearly 2,000 dead, countless wounded, young people and not

so young without limbs, without their full brain capacity. It is a

stunning failure.

Finally, in the Senate, we have a resolution that simply says to this

administration: Do tell us, what is your plan? When are we getting out?

Give us the milestones. And, what is the mission?

I have a couple of questions I wanted to ask my friend. As my friend

was talking, I wrote down the various missions that we have heard from

the administration that we were supposed to have in Iraq. The first one

was weapons of mass destruction. Remember when Secretary Rumsfeld said:

I know where they are; I could point to where they are. No, there

weren't any. Then they said: We have to get Saddam. He is a tyrant. We

all agreed, he is a tyrant. Saddam is gone for all intents and

purposes. That was the second mission. Then they said: We are going to

rebuild Iraq, a disastrous situation over which Secretary Rice is in

charge. I haven't seen much rebuilding. I have seen a lot of no-bid

contracts. Then they said: We have to have an election. That is the

next mission. They had an election. After that, everything fell apart.

Then they said: We need to bring security. We are going to train the

Iraqi forces. The Senator from Wisconsin and I agree with that. We want

to see them trained--it seems to be taking forever--especially when we

have the President saying: We will stay there as long as it takes. What

kind of message is that to the Iraqis?

We had a briefing yesterday. We can't discuss the details of that

briefing, but it seemed to me there were yet other missions laid out.

I ask my friend, does he see the situation the way I do: An ever-

changing mission in Iraq, setting the bar higher and higher with no end

in sight is where we are at the present time?

Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague for

correcting me on the point that I missed that, yes, out of the five or

six missions I named, I left out the very important one that he

corrected me on, which is that there was a link between Saddam and al-

Qaida and, in fact, there was al-Qaida all over Iraq.

The Senator and I sit on the Foreign Relations Committee. I think he

remembers this document that I put into the Record, because I remember

he very much wanted it, which showed that about a month after September

11 when we were so viciously attacked by bin Laden--who, by the way, we

were going to get dead or alive, and we need to do that--the fact is,

the State Department in its own document said there wasn't one al-Qaida

cell, not one, in Iraq. There were more cells in America than in Iraq,

according to our own State Department. We have put that in the Record.

Now, of course, it is a haven for terrorism because of this failed

policy, this disastrous policy, this policy that is utter chaos with no

end in sight, unless the Senate and the administration look at what my

friend put forward, which is finally saying to the President: You need

a mission, a mission that can be accomplished, and we need to end this

in an orderly fashion.

I wanted to ask my friend one more point, and then I will leave the

Chamber. That is about the National Guard. Right now, there are fires

raging in my home State, sadly. We have them every year at this time.

It is heartwrenching. We need all the help we can get. We always get

all the help we ask for. We have never had a problem. The National

Guard is called out when it gets really out of control.

Is my friend aware that the best equipment that the National Guard

had at its disposal is in Iraq, not here at home? And when the people

were crying out for help, not only were so many of the National Guard

over in Iraq, my understanding is--and my friend can correct me--

approximately 40 percent of our troops over there are National Guard.

That is my information. Not only that, the best equipment of the

National Guard is over in Iraq.

Don't our people deserve better than that so when they experience

disasters, our National Guard can respond?