Mr. President, I am so honored to be on the floor with

Senator Joe Lieberman today and to listen to his remarks, frankly, to

stand in the shadow of his leadership on this issue because he has been

that, a bipartisan leader, recognizing, as he so appropriately has

spoken, the leadership role that a Congress should take at this time in

our Nation's history. And he has said it well. It is not one of

micromanagement. It is not one of 535 generals all thinking we can act

and think strategically about the engagement currently underway in

Baghdad.

It is our job, I would hope, to stand united in behalf of the men and

women we send there in uniform to accomplish what we so hope and wish

they will be able to accomplish, and that is the stability of Iraq, the

allowing of the Iraqi people to once again lead their country and to

take from it the kind of radical Islamic fascism that is well underway

and dominating the region.

Let me make a few comments this afternoon that clearly coincide with

what Senator Lieberman has spoken to. This is not, nor should it ever

become, a partisan issue. I think his presence on the floor this

afternoon speaks volumes to that. This is not a partisan issue. This is

a phenomenally important national and international issue for our

country to be engaged in that, frankly, few countries can engage in the

way we have and with the kind of energy and strength we have brought to

it.

The majority leader has put us in a very precarious situation, one

that is clearly divisive. Frankly, I can say things as a Republican

that maybe my colleague cannot say.