Mr. President, I wanted to say to my friend

and

my colleague and our leader that the President of the United States,

when he was Governor of Texas, had a reputation as someone who reached

out as a uniter, bringing together the two parties in a bipartisan way.

Since the President has been elected President and has served in that

capacity, he has chosen to change, for what reason I do not know

because the country yearns for bipartisanship. That was clearly one of

the messages that came out of last year's election, the 2006 election,

that the people of this country are tired of the partisan bickering,

and they want us to come together. Yet, as the majority leader was just

recounting, there has been occasion after occasion where it seems,

unnecessarily, that the White House has gone out of its way to attack

someone simply because they were a member of the other party.

I want to give the Senate an example. Because I had been twice

before, over a 6-year period, to visit the President of Syria,

immediately upon the Iraq study commission report that recommended that

we open up to Syria, this Senator from Florida decided that I was going

to go back, hoping that there might be some encounter in that

conversation with the President of Syria that might crack the door a

little bit. I did that in the week before Christmas.

The White House chose to attack me for having made that trip--

however, very conveniently not attacking any Republican Senator who

happened to follow, as did two Democratic Senators and one Republican

Senator in a week or two after I made that trip.

So, too, it is noteworthy that the White House chose to attack

Speaker Nancy Pelosi in her visit with President Assad while being

mute about the congressional delegation that had just visited President

Assad 4 days earlier, which included my good personal friends, the

Congressman from Virginia, Frank Wolf, and the Congressman from

Pennsylvania, Joe Pitts.

When we are facing an issue of war and peace, as we are now, we have

to come together. The person at the top has to set the standard and the

atmosphere. These kind of attacks that become personal, as they were

against Speaker Pelosi, are not going to do anybody any good.

I am grateful to the leader. I believed it was

necessary. Partisanship has gotten out of control around here. I was so

encouraged, the day that we were sworn in when the two leaders, the

Democratic leader and the Republican leader, convened us in a private

meeting in the Old Senate Chamber. There was a wonderful spirit. It

clearly was, in large part, as a message from the American people that

they were tired of the partisan bickering. That was clearly one of the

messages from the election.

We started off in this mutual camaraderie of how we can make a body

like this function that cannot pass anything unless we have 60 votes

out of 100 Senators in order to shut off debate. That means we have to

have coming together. As the Good Book says, ``Come, let us reason

together.''

It is harder and harder to do that in a poisonous, partisan

atmosphere. But it has to be set at the top.

I cannot tell the White House what to do. I can sure recommend. But

there is something that I can do; that is, I am responsible for myself

and my actions and how I treat others, treat others in this Chamber.

There is an age-old principle, and it has to be: Treat others as you

want to be treated. I will put that in the old English, which might be

a little bit more familiar: Do unto others as you would have them do

unto you.

If we had a little bit more of that, we could sure get some things

done around here. Typically, what happens in these 51-to-49 votes,

there is not that much difference that we couldn't have 10 votes on

that side of the aisle or 10 votes on this side of the aisle go one way

or another in reaching a mutual consensus. Yet over and over it has

been avoided.

I felt compelled to say these things.