I will use approximately 5

minutes of the time and yield the remainder

of my time to Senator WARNER.

I would like to begin by saying how

much I appreciate the work that has

been done here in handling this legislation,

having a full debate. Senator

WARNER has been here joining in the

discussion, Senator REID, Senator

MCCAIN. There has been a serious effort

to make sure we had an orderly process

where Senators could make their feelings

known. There has been thoughtful

discussion on both sides of the issue,

and there might have been one or two

quorum calls the whole time because

Senators have known, when you come

to the floor, this will be your opportunity

to speak on this issue.

And there will be more time today.

As I look at the schedule that was

lined up through the diligent efforts of

Senator WARNER, Senator MCCAIN, and

Senator REID, we are going to have

votes on amendments—even amendments

that would not be germaine

postcloture. There has been a real effort

to make sure Senator BYRD and

Senators LEVIN, DURBIN, BOXER, and

others have an opportunity to offer

amendments and make their case. We

will have five votes between now and

approximately 4 o’clock this afternoon.

Mr. President, I remember the discussion

back in 1991 on the Persian

Gulf resolution. I think we had about 2

days of debate previously, and 2 1⁄2 days

when we actually took up the debate—

when it passed. It was a very important

debate. I thought it was an occasion

when the Senate proved it is the

world’s greatest deliberative body. It

was very serious. Every Senator spoke,

we had the vote, and it passed. I

thought it was one of the high-water

marks since I have served in the Senate.

It was only 2 1⁄2 days and every

Senator got a chance to speak.

In 1998, at the request of President

Clinton, I moved aggressively, in a bipartisan

way, to pass the Iraqi Liberation

Act. As I recall, at that time, Senator

KYL worked with me on that

issue, Senator WARNER was involved, as

were Senators KERRY and LIEBERMAN,

and we passed that resolution, which

also called for a regime change unanimously,

with very short debate—as I

recall, maybe even a half day, or a day

at the most. But it was important debate

and an important vote.

So when we have been called on by

Presidents of both parties to address

this very serious issue in this very serious

area of the world, we have handled

it in the right way. I think that is the

case here. Senators were told in my

conference, and I know Senator

DASCHLE told his side’s conference, you

will be able to speak on Friday and,

again, on Monday. We will stay as long

as you need. We had all day yesterday.

A great effort was made to make sure

Senators had a chance to speak. Now

Senators have a chance to offer amendments

and speak on them. After the

vote between 3 and 4 o’clock, there will

be more time because Senators do feel

strongly about this and want an opportunity

to be heard. They are going to

have that opportunity.

I believe this issue has been aired

fully. It is not new. We have been worrying

about this, talking about this,

and debating the seriousness of the

threat from Saddam Hussein and his

weapons of mass destruction for

years—really, for 11 years. There is

new information that is available. We

have had our classified briefings. I have

made sure Senators on our side—and I

know the administration has made

sure Senators on both sides of the

aisle—have had a chance to get briefings

at multiple opportunities. So Senators

know what the issue is. We have

seen, yesterday, Senators from both

parties moving toward giving the

President the authority to do this job.

I hope we can get inspectors in there,

that they can find the weapons of mass

destruction, and they are destroyed.

But I don’t trust Saddam Hussein. His

record is clear. I think, once again, he

will resist, he will agree, he will dissemble.

In the end, he will try to block

this. You can always hope and pray we

will find a solution here.

The President of the United States

has listened to the American people, to

the Congress, to the U.N, and our allies.

The President came to the Congress

and said, yes, I want your input.

He sent up some suggested language on

this resolution, and it was changed

once and then twice; significant

changes were made at the recommendation

of Senators on both sides

of the aisle. So he has worked with us

in this effort. He encouraged our involvement

and our debate. He has gone

to the U.N. and called on them to stand

up to their commitment and do their

job, and quit passing resolutions that

are not backed or demanded to be complied

with, with force if necessary. He

did the job. He and his administration,

including the Secretary of State, Colin

Powell, have worked with allies at the

U.N. and with our allies around the

world. This President has made it clear

he is not going to act precipitously,

but he is prepared to act.

This President has led with commitment

and has shown leadership. He is

prepared to try to find a peaceful solution

here. But unless we make it clear

he is committed, we are committed,

and the U.N. is committed, this problem

will not go away. It is serious and

it is imminent. It takes but one person

with a small container to bring very

dangerous weapons of mass destruction

into this country.

Some people say, why now? Well, because

the threat is not going to lessen.

It has been 4 years since we passed the

Iraqi Liberation Act in 1998. I suspect

matters have gotten much worse. Besides

that, the U.N. is going to be leaving

soon for the year and won’t be back

until next August. We want to see action

from the U.N. We need to act to

show our commitment, and we need to

show our determination to get them to

act in a way that has real force.

I think we have had a full debate and

we will have more debate. To try to

delay it another day, another week, is

not going to be helpful. We need to

stand up now, show we mean what we

say, and we are going to get the results

and, by doing that, perhaps something

can be worked out without the use of

force. But this President has asked for

this. This Senate is committed to this.

I believe the vote will be overwhelming.

I urge my colleagues to vote for cloture.

There will be times for

postcloture debate. We have bent over

backward to make sure everybody had

an opportunity and will still have an

opportunity to speak and even offer

amendments.

With that, I yield the remainder of

my time to the Senator from Virginia,

who has done a magnificent job in fairly

managing this legislation.