Mr. President, this

morning I will make a few comments

with regard to the issue that is generally

before us and before the country,

and that is, of course, where we go with

regard to Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

The President did a great job last

night. He made very appropriate comments

at a very appropriate time. He

has discussed in detail the threats we

see in Iraq, the threats we see in terrorism,

and he has talked about his solution.

There have been questions raised,

and properly so, and the President last

evening sought to answer those questions,

as indeed I think he should.

Why do we need to contain this dictator?

I think surely most people understand

that. Why do we need to do it

now? I suppose that may be one of the

most difficult questions for some. Why

are we waiting to have allies in the

U.N.? Certainly most agree that is

something we want. The President covered

that very thoroughly, and indicated

that is his goal.

Our loss of 3,000 innocent Americans

on September 11 makes us aware of

why we need to make some changes;

that activity in the world has changed.

A number of years ago the threats were

of landing on barges, flying huge formations

of airplanes, with divisions of

armed men and women. Now it is not

entirely safe, as we found out September

11. We suffer huge damages

from one incident. That is difficult to

control. Clearly we have a problem.

We must complete our discussion,

move forward and make decisions. It is

an issue important to everyone, as a

Nation, and important to the world. We

will be voting on a resolution soon. I

suppose there will be amendments to

the resolution. The House may or may

not come up with the same resolution.

Nevertheless, that is the role of the

Senate. I hope we deal with it as quickly

as we can.

It grants the authority of the President

to do what he feels has to be done

to deal with this issue. Today we understand

the clear and present threat

of terrorism being different than in the

past. September 11 changed that. We

see evidence of these threats around

the world.

Our personal safety has changed, as

well as our national security. We recognize

that. I understand there is reason

to debate this issue. People have

different views. We need to discuss the

commitment of the military in this

world. The question of acting unilaterally

is a difficult question. That is one

alternative.

We need to offer leadership in the

world to reduce the risk that exists.

The administration has done an excellent

job of getting the support of our

allies. Not all have signed up. Not all

have stood up and raised their hands.

Many support what we do now, as in

Afghanistan.

Obviously, people have different

views. Some are politicized. Some are

different, legitimate views. We have to

identify what our role should be as a

leader in the world. More importantly,

we need to protect this country’s freedom

and protect the freedom of all citizens.

In England, Prime Minister Blair has

stepped up. I am sure others will, as

well. We need to continue to discuss it.

Much of the discussion has already

taken place and the decision is ready

to be made. Is this a sufficient threat

to cause us to commit ourselves? I

think so. Should we work through the

U.N. with our allies? Of course. That is

what the President suggested last

night. I heard a fellow Senator this

morning saying we should not do anything

until the U.N. authorizes it. I

hope the U.N. does, and I hope the U.N.

is there. They should be. On the other

hand, I don’t think we ought to be controlled

by the U.N. If we find this has

to be something we do, we must go

ahead.

Our role is to disarm Saddam. Inspectors

are an excellent way to do that.

But we have to review policy to see

they are unrestricted. However, getting

inspectors in is not the goal. Disarmament

is the goal. Inspectors may be

a way to do that. We hope they are.

There will be movement in the U.N.

The President’s talk last night will do

a great deal to assist in that regard.

The resolution before the Senate provides

for the necessary authority. It

pertains to support of diplomatic efforts

of the President to strictly enforce

the United Nations Security

Council resolutions that have been in

place for 10 years. That is all we are

asking.

We support, in this resolution, action

by the Security Council to ensure Iraq

abandons its strategy for delay and invasion.

The authorization is included.

The President is authorized to use the

Armed Forces of the United States as

he determines to be necessary and appropriate

in order to defend the national

security of the United States

against the continuing threat posed by

Iraq, and, number 2, enforce all relevant

United Nations Security Council

resolutions regarding Iraq. The President

makes those determinations and

reports to the Congress. He makes

available to the Speaker of the House

and the President pro tempore his determination

that, number one, reliance

by the United States on further diplomatic

or peaceful means alone either

will not adequately protect the national

security or will not likely lead

to the enforcement of those Security

Council resolutions. It makes that determination,

and, number 2, determines

that acting pursuant to this resolution

is consistent with the United

States and other countries continuing

to take necessary actions against

international terrorists, terrorist organizations,

including the nations, organizations,

and persons planning and authorized

to commit or aiding terrorists

in the attacks that occurred on September

11.

It is pretty clear what needs to be

done. It is appropriate to discuss this.

We have discussed it sufficiently. I

hope in the next day or two we can

complete action. We need a little less

talk and more action. The time has

come to do that. It is our challenge. It

is our responsibility. I hope we can do

it in the next several days.

I yield the floor.