I am very respectful of your chairmanship.

Thank you very much for calling on me.

First, Mr. Pickering, one of the things that happens around here

that is not so good for me is that for maybe 10 years or so I do

not get to talk to you very often. Our paths do not cross.

And I remember back when we were in the U.N. and we used

to see each other a little more—I do not know why. Maybe the assignments—

but I had great respect for you then, and I continue to

have it now, and when we come down hard on what is happening

over there with Saddam Hussein and where we are going, none of

it is directed at anybody personally, and certainly not at you.

I happened to, within the last 21⁄2 weeks, go to both Kuwait and

Saudi Arabia, and I guess my first question, or the first thing I

learned in Saudi Arabia that was startling to me, and I just wanted

to ask you if you were aware of this, we had the luxury of having

the equivalent of their OMB Director in Saudi Arabia, and you

understand who that gentleman is, highly respected, used to be on

the World Bank board, was Deputy Director of IMF, et cetera, and

he is not a member of the Royal Family, and he talked about the

budget of Saudi Arabia and their country, and I assume you are

aware that in terms of their fiscal situation they are in very bad

shape. Is that a fair assessment?

Well, let us say they are in extreme deficit

this year, very, very large.

And borrowing. They are not interested in increasing

their expenditures for military. I assume you know that.

And second, or third, we were told—and it

matters not by whom, but somebody who is supposed to know over

there, we were told that they thought it was time for America to

pull back from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and take a lot of our

troops out of there and put them in the regions around there, that

they did not think they were that important any more.

And last, believe it or not, Senator Robb, I asked if we had to

have another Desert Storm, could the Saudis pay their fair share,

and the answer was no.

Now, I understand the Ambassador would not take that as a

final conclusion, but it does lead me to think that the United States

of America may very well be the only power in that area that is

assumed to have all the resources in the world, all the manpower

in the world, all the men and women in the military in the world,

and ultimately, when it comes right down to it, we are going to do

something over there or it is not going to get done.

Now, is that a fair statement, or would you argue with it, if you

would care to?

But look, here is the point. They also suggested

in Saudi Arabia that first they are not going to increase

their defense. I have already suggested that to you. If anything

they are looking to cut it.

The only country that really seems to be totally backing us and

willing to talk about the disproportionate share we are paying is

Kuwait, and they are the only ones already paying their share and

more in that region, and perhaps rightly so. They were invaded.

The other ones were not.

But it seems to me that the United States of America cannot win

our political goals in the area unless there is absolute and total

support from countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Emirates,

and those other countries that we seem to be there to help protect.

Incidentally, of all of the sanctions and other things that are

about, the one thing that the Saudis said unequivocally they want

to enforce is the sanction on how much oil Iraq can produce. Everybody

would guess they would be for that, right? That is money in

their pockets. To the extent that Iraq produces a lot of oil, the price

of oil probably comes down, and so the strongest thing they want

is to impose the quantity of oil that they can produce and get into

the open market.

I guess I am kind of concerned, because when I see this lessthan-

total commitment, and we seem so concerned, we are ready

to take this to the American people on having a major military

intervention with our people leading the parade, I do not think any

of this is going to work, and I am not so sure we ought to have

our men and women committed over there in large numbers like

we have, so unless people like you can tell us that the Saudis, the

Kuwaiti’s and others there are as committed as we are, or more,

or else I wonder why should we be so concerned.

Well, I did not come here, nor have I said a

word that would imply that I do not think the food-for-oil is a bad

policy. I am not saying that. What I am saying, the whole scheme

seems rather porous, and as we seem to be led to believe that this

will work, to me it seems like the longer time passes the less it is

apt to work.

And my last observation has to do with the Saudi Arabians and

the Iraqis as it concerns the underpinnings of the regimes, which

I do not care to bring up here today, but I tell you, it is very difficult

for this Senator to listen to their OMB Director tell us how

poor they are when you do not have to ask the CIA to tell you how

many palaces each Crown Prince has and how much they are

worth.

And you know, I am not one who has ever tried to have this richversus-

poor part of my vocabulary up here, but rather, if you think

I am going to vote to put a whole bunch more money in there for

an event that we need to be in, and we do not have the Saudi Arabians

right up front, if they have got to borrow money, borrow it.

It is their oil, and it is their lives, and they are right next door,

and we have got to go over there and meet our young men and

women who are out there in the field.

You know, we met some in the field who had been back there 11

times since the end of the war, because Saddam plays us like a little

yo-yo. I mean, he does a few things and we ship them all over

again.

In fact, one of the Saudi leaders said that is what he thinks is

actually happening, that they do their little thing and America gets

all worked up and they send 40,000 more troops over.

Who do you think goes? The same guys who went before, and 11

times is a lot for somebody married with a few kids. That is worth

a lot of dollars. That does not have anything to do with millions.

That is quality of life, and you are going to lose these guys.

So I am going to do a little more active participation in this, and

I think I understand the significance of it, and I am not afraid to

talk about whether we are going to put money in our budgets for

things that they are not going to put in their budgets, I will tell

you that for sure.