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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, in the quiet of this magnificent moment of conversation with You, we dedicate this day. We want to live it to Your glory, alert to the dangers of this time but without anxiety, prepared but not perplexed. We praise You that it is Your desire to give Your presence and blessing to those who ask You. You give strength and power to Your people when we seek You above anything else. You guide the humble and teach them Your way. Help us to humble ourselves as we begin this day so that no self-serving agenda or self-aggrandizing attitude will block Your blessings to this Senate and to our Nation through us. Speak to us so that we may speak with both the tenor of Your truth and the tone of Your grace.

We say with the Psalmist:

God be merciful to us and bless us and cause Your face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on Earth and Your salvation among the nations. You are our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. LINCOLN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be no rollcall votes today, as was announced last evening by the majority leader. This morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. As under the direction of the majority leader, next week is going to be an extremely busy week. We are going to work on the economic stimulus package, and there are a number of other pieces of legislation we are going to do our very best to complete prior to Thanksgiving.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Alaska.

ENERGY NEEDS AND COMMITMENTS

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I have applauded the actions of my colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI, as our senior Republican on the Energy Committee. Because of my involvement in other matters, particularly appropriations, it has not been possible for me to be here to join him as much as I would like to do so.

I consider the opening of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge area for environmentally sound oil and gas development to be the issue of highest national security we will vote on this year. The President of the United States shares that view. I believe many in this body do.

Last week President Bush said: It is in "our national interest to get [an energy bill] to [his] desk." I am paraphrasing that. I believe the vast majority of Americans share the President's view. Just last night while speaking in Atlanta, President Bush called upon Congress to send an energy bill to his desk again "to reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

When the President said that, there was such a unanimous outpouring of support from the people in the audience. It was probably the loudest reaction to his whole speech.

I believe that is correct. It is a national concept and there is national support for that goal. Today we still do not have a commitment to bring up and complete action on this energy bill. This morning I rise to again highlight some of the implications of failure to act now.

The stability of some of the nations principally responsible for supplying oil to the United States can no longer be taken for granted. In 1979, when the instability of the Middle East was of paramount concern, we took action to protect Israel. As our major ally in the Middle East, we should proceed with energy legislation not only to protect our own interests but to ensure that we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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can continue to support Israel as we have agreed to do.

In 1979, our Government entered into a bilateral agreement with Israel to ensure that Israel would have access to the oil it needs to meet its daily requirements. Everyone in the Senate should be familiar with that agreement. We understood then that some Middle Eastern countries had the power to hold Israel hostage by denying access to oil.

Let me read from a relevant portion of the agreement we signed with Israel to protect its supply of oil:

If the oil Israel needs to meet all its normal requirements for domestic consumption is unavailable for purchase . . . the United States Government will promptly make oil available for purchase by Israel to meet all of the aforementioned normal requirements of Israel.

Our Government renewed that agreement in 1994 to ensure that Israel is protected through 2004. When we finally take up the comprehensive energy bill, we should include an amendment to extend that agreement with our Middle Eastern ally, Israel.

The point is, Israel produces less than 500 barrels of oil per day. It consumes nearly 300,000 barrels of oil a day. Regardless of what happens in the Middle East, Israel needs guaranteed access to oil just to maintain its economy. And regardless of what happens in the Middle East, we have to be able to produce and provide to Israel at those 300,000 barrels of oil per day in accordance with that agreement.

My understanding is that Alaska's oil is the oil that would fulfill that agreement because it is the same quality of oil that Israel's refineries run and could be run in those refineries without change.

Given our current dependence on foreign oil, and 57 percent of our oil is imported, Middle Eastern supplies of oil are unstable as far as we are concerned. We have to have a way to fulfill the commitment we have made to Israel, our primary ally in that part of the world.

Our own vulnerability to protect unstable oil supplies is a national security issue for us. Think what it is for Israel.

I am deeply disturbed about our continued reliance upon Saddam Hussein's oil. We are using more than 700,000 barrels of oil per day in this country imported from Iraq. From press reports, we know that one of Osama bin Laden's goals is to overthrow the House of Saud and to gain access to the vast oil reserves in Saudi Arabia.

How secure would those supplies be if that unfortunate event should take place? Today Saudi Arabia is the largest single supplier of oil to the United States. We import over 1.8 million barrels a day from Saudi Arabia.

At the height of the Persian Gulf War, 2.1 million barrels a day were sent through the Alaska oil pipeline. In the time of need, then we had oil to produce. Today, we send just over 1

million barrels a day through that pipeline because we don't have the production necessary to fill the pipeline. Today, our pipeline is half full as the production at Prudhoe Bay declines. As it declines, we send more American money to Saddam Hussein to buy his oil.

We must consider the implications of our Government having just recalled our Ambassador to Venezuela as we consider the stability of our oil supplies. For those who missed it, let me quote from a November 6 story in the Wall Street Journal discussing Venezuela:

Relations have deteriorated steadily since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. President Chavez and his ministers have made what U.S. officials have described as "contradictory" and ambiguous statements. In the most recent incident, Mr. Chavez last week criticized U.S. bombing raids in Afghanistan during a televised speech. . . . Venezuela is especially important because it is one of the top three suppliers of oil to the United States market. . . .

Madam President, this is the same President Chavez who was the first head of state to break the multilateral sanctions on Iraq by visiting Saddam Hussein after the gulf war. No wonder President Bush has recalled our Ambassador for consultations. Keep in mind that nearly 1.6 million barrels of oil per day come to the United States from Venezuela, and they are subject to the control of President Chavez.

When we talk of potentially unstable sources of crude oil, we cannot ignore Iraq. My colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI, has continued to remind the Senate that the United States now imports 700,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Saddam Hussein. As I said last week, by the end of the year, we will have imported 230 million barrels of oil from Iraq. Over 40 million barrels of that oil went to California to replace oil that California used to get from Alaska. At \$20 per barrel, Americans will send over \$5 billion to Saddam Hussein's terrorism machine by this Christmas—\$5 billion, and hundreds of thousands of jobs that we don't have now because we don't have permission to increase production to continue filling the Alaska pipeline daily.

This year, we have thousands of American troops stationed in the Middle East and around Afghanistan. They risk their lives to protect our interests and our security. I believe we must do something about our growing dependence on these potentially unreliable supplies of oil. We must begin to explore for oil in our own country, and we know where the largest potential supply of oil is. It is in the Coastal Plain of Alaska. We just need the opportunity to go get it.

The Energy Information Agency released a new report last week detailing all of the proven reserves in the United States. That report says in the entire State of Texas there are now 5.27 billion barrels of proven reserves. Texans don't like me to remind them, but that State is less than half the size of Alaska.

The House-passed energy bill, H.R. 4, contains authorization for oil production in the Coastal Plain of ANWR. That Coastal Plain, as designated by the Jackson amendment in the 1980 act, is 1.5 million acres, and it is estimated to contain a minimum of 5.7 billion barrels of oil, with a very good possibility, I am told, of recovering up to 16 billion barrels of oil—enough to fill the Alaska pipeline for another three decades and beyond.

Madam President, people forget when I stood here on the floor and urged approval of the Alaska oil pipeline, the estimate for production from Prudhoe Bay was 1 billion barrels. This year, we have produced the thirteen-billionth barrel of oil from Prudhoe Bay. These estimates are always on the very conservative side.

The House energy bill limits oil production to just 2,000 acres of the 1.5 million-acre area. Remember, the million and a half acres was set aside for oil and gas exploration. Now, if the oil in ANWR could replace our imports from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, or Venezuela—and that is possible—it could produce enough oil to replace at least one of our three largest suppliers. Can anyone really doubt that this is an issue involving our national security?

Madam President, as we approach Veterans Day, I am proud to stand here as a World War II veteran and applaud the veterans groups of our country. They understand the vulnerabilities of our country. They understand the importance of reducing our reliance on the Middle East and increasing our domestic production.

I want to quote from two recent letters. This is an October 26 letter from the National Commander of AMVETS:

Our current reliance on foreign oil leaves the United States vulnerable to the whim of individual oil-exporting countries, many existing in the unpredictable and highly dangerous Persian Gulf. . . . Passage of H.R. 4 would greatly assist in our ability to secure a more dependable and diversified domestic supply of energy.

And I would note that since the Persian Gulf war our security has become more threatened with our dependence on foreign sources of oil growing from 35 percent of domestic supply to nearly 60 percent. AMVETS firmly believes we cannot wait for the next crisis before we act.

I ask unanimous consent that letter be printed in the RECORD following my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See Exhibit 1.)

Mr. STEVENS. In an October 25 letter, the National Commander of the American Legion said:

War and international terrorism have again brought into sharp focus the heavy reliance of the U.S. on imported oil. During times of crisis, such reliance threatens our national security and economic well-being. It is important that we develop domestic sources of oil, contained within our public lands—such as the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I ask unanimous consent that letter and additional letters be printed in the RECORD after these remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See Exhibit 2.)

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, action is required now to protect our national security. The advice of these veterans groups representing the voices of all men and women who have fought for our freedom should be followed. Their advice to increase our economic security by opening the Coastal Plain of ANWR needs to be adhered to.

The advice of organized labor, which wants to see us create hundreds of thousands of jobs by opening this Coastal Plain of ANWR, is also compelling.

Israel needs even greater assurance that we can fulfil our obligations to meet her energy needs. In short, responding to these requests and to the President of the United States to promote our national security by passing the comprehensive energy bill, H.R. 4, containing authorization to proceed to use 2,000 of the 1.5 million acres of ANWR, should be our No. 1 goal before we leave for the holiday.

Passing a comprehensive energy bill that contains environmentally sound provisions by producing the largest single potential oilfield on the North American Continent is a goal of most Americans. If we act now, our men and women serving overseas will know that we stand behind them.

Passing this bill before we go home for the holiday will tell families from New England to Minnesota that the fuel oil they burn in the future, after our Arctic Plain begins to produce, is American oil, not oil from Saddam Hussein, from Iraq, or from any of these unstable sources.

In short, I believe we must act before we go home for this holiday so we will know we have acted to protect the security of our Nation, our total national security. A filibuster against a national security issue involving energy has never taken place in this Chamber. It did not take place when the oil pipeline was built, and there was severe, even worse, opposition at that time than there is now. That pipeline passed by one vote, the vote of the Vice President of the United States.

The opponents at that time knew they could filibuster, but they did not because it was a matter of national security. I call upon the Senate to recognize the tradition of this body and not filibuster a national security issue as we raise H.R. 4 next week.

I ask unanimous consent that an article by the eminent Charles Krauthammer from today's Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 9, 2001]

WAR AND THE POLAR BEAR
(By Charles Krauthammer)

So you thought that Sept. 11 changed everything, that the era of game-show fri-

volity, "Survivor" silliness and general self-indulgence had given way to an era of seriousness. Well, not quite. Here we are, for the second time in a decade, risking American lives in a war against an enemy fueled and fed by oil money. Here we are again decrying our dependence on oil from a particularly unstable, unfriendly part of the world. Here we are in desperate need of both energy conservation and new energy production. And here we see (in the Oct. 30 Post) that we may be prevented from drilling in the single most promising area on this continent because of a . . . polar bear treaty: "New Species Enters Debate on Arctic Oil; Polar Bear Agreement Cited by Drilling Foes."

Now, I like polar bears as much as the next guy. I like pandas and caribou and all the furry cuddlies on God's good earth. But I also like people, particularly Americans, and particularly American soldiers. And I do not like seeing them shot and killed in wars that would be both more avoidable and more winnable were we not so disastrously dependent on energy supplies from a nasty part of the world with nasty people who use our oil money for nasty purposes.

At a time when Washington should be working on a crash program of conservation and new drilling, a six-year-old report from the Fish and Wildlife Service is leaked in the hope that a 28-year-old polar bear treaty might derail drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Outrage! "This is a classic Bush administration strategy of running roughshod over international agreements," charged Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity and leaker of the report. The Interior Department stoutly maintains that the polar bear agreement does not prohibit oil exploration. Alaska's Sen. Frank Murkowski points out that the 25,000 or so Arctic polar bears that he represents seem to be quite happily lolling around the existing oil drilling in Alaska.

I too have little doubt that the polar bears will do fine, just as the caribou have thrived around the Prudhoe Bay field. But the whole debate is surreal. We are at war, are we not? Americans are fighting. In Washington and New York, nearly 5,000 have already been killed. Fifteen of the 19 murderers were Saudi. Their leader is Saudi. Most of their money is Saudi. And that same Saudi money funds the madrassas, the fundamentalist religious schools where poor Pakistani, Afghan and Arab children are inducted into the world of radical Islam and war against the American infidel. And yet we bow and scrape to the Saudis. We beg and borrow. We tolerate their deflecting onto America the popular hatred that would otherwise be directed at their own corruption. Why? Because we need their oil.

The war on terrorism will be fought in many places. Alaska is one. We have known since 1973 that we need to reduce our dependence on Persian Gulf oil. But we have never been serious. It was assumed that Sept. 11 would make us serious. Instead, we are engaged in exegeses on polar bear mating habits and a ridiculous debate that pits conservation vs. drilling. Why one and not the other is beyond me. Of course we need conservation. I have been an advocate of a dollar-a-gallon gasoline tax for 20 years. Whatever it takes: auto efficiency standards, higher taxes, incentives for new fuels.

But why stop there? We need more oil still. Every additional barrel that substitutes domestic oil for foreign oil is a victory. Drilling in the Arctic will involve less than 1 percent of the Arctic Refuge. It might produce an additional million barrels a day. The sea of natural gas beneath could be the largest in North America. And yet the Luddites stand firm, as if Sept. 11 never happened.

Sen. John Kerry vows a filibuster if anyone dares legislate Arctic drilling.

Imagine where we would be if those railing against Arctic drilling today had prevailed 30 years ago and stopped Prudhoe Bay. The million barrels a day we now get from Alaska would be coming from Saudi Arabia. We would be even more in their debt and under their thumb. A concerned citizenry is yearning to do something significant for the war effort on the home front. But this is not World War II. We do not need rubber. We do not need war bonds. We do not need Rosie riveting. We desperately do need energy independence. And that is a home-front battle: conservation—and a willingness to disturb a few acres of snow in a vast wilderness as remote as Afghanistan.

There's a war on, senators. Lets get serious.

EXHIBIT 1

AMVETS,

Lanham, MD, October 26, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, The U.S. Senate, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: On behalf of AMVETS, I am writing to encourage you to bring H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001, before the full Senate for consideration at the earliest possible moment prior to the close of the 1st Session of the 107th Congress.

As you know, our current reliance on foreign oil leaves the United States vulnerable to the whim of individual oil-exporting countries, many existing in the unpredictable and highly dangerous Persian Gulf. And it cannot be overstated that energy supplies touch nearly every aspect of our lives from our economy to our national security.

Passage of H.R. 4 would greatly assist in our ability to secure a more dependable and diversified domestic supply of energy. And, I would note that since the Persian Gulf War our security has become more threatened with our dependence on foreign sources of oil growing from 35 percent of domestic supply to nearly 60 percent.

AMVETS firmly believes that we cannot wait for the next crisis before we act. H.R. 4, as approved by the House, is a critical part of an overall policy America requires to promote dependable, affordable, and environmentally sound production and distribution of energy for the future. We urge your expedited approval of this legislation.

Dedicated to service,

JOSEPH W. LIPOWSKI,
National Commander.

EXHIBIT 2

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: We write today out of a sense of urgency concerning our national security, as it relates to our need for energy independence. The development of America's domestic energy resources is vital to our national security. We respectfully urge you to adopt the provisions contained in H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001."

War and international terrorism have again brought into sharp focus the heavy reliance of the United States on imported oil. During times of crises, such reliance threatens our national security and economic well being. The import of more than 50 percent of our petroleum from the Persian Gulf further compounds our foreign trade balance at a time when our energy demands continue unabated. It is important that we develop domestic sources of oil, contained within our

public lands—such as the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Working for a comprehensive energy policy and achieving responsible energy independence are critical national security and economic goals. H.R. 4, as passed by the House of Representatives, is a major step forward to achieving these imperative goals. We strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. SANTOS,
National Commander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, October 29, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Majority Leader U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: The 2.7 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary supports H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001" or SAFE Act of 2001. We applaud the House of Representatives for its bipartisan work in addressing our energy vulnerability by passing H.R. 4. We believe the Senate should consider and vote on H.R. 4 so that our nation has an energy plan for the future and can move forward quickly with a comprehensive plan to develop our domestic energy resources.

Keeping in mind the horrific events of September 11 and mindful of the threats we are facing, we strongly believe that the development of America's domestic energy resources is a vital national security priority. We need to take steps to reverse our growing dependence on Middle East oil as quickly as possible. By passing H.R. 4, the Senate will be supporting our troops serving in combat on Operation Enduring Freedom, the American people, and our national security with a comprehensive energy legislation that is desperately needed to diversify the energy supply for our country and chart a course for the future.

The VFW strongly urges the Senate to consider and vote on H.R. 4 as passed in the House in this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. WALLACE,
Executive Director.

VIETNAM VETERANS INSTITUTE,
October 30, 2001.

MAJOR VETERANS GROUPS ASK SENATE TO QUICKLY PASS ENERGY BILL TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA FOR WAR ON TERRORISM

WASHINGTON.—Major veterans groups—with a combined membership of nearly 5 million—today called on the Senate to quickly pass an energy bill that includes a provision allowing more oil drilling in Alaska to strengthen America's national security and economy for the war on terrorism.

The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, the Vietnam Veterans Institute and the Catholic War Veterans urged senators to accelerate development of domestic energy resources, including the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska, as an urgent matter of national security.

In letters to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), veterans groups asked Daschle to allow the energy bill passed by the House—H.R. 4—to come to a straight majority vote in the Senate promptly, without a Democratic filibuster that would take 60 votes to break. Daschle opposes the bill's provision allowing oil drilling in part of ANWR.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi and Senators Frank Murkowski (R-AK), Larry Craig (R-ID), Rick Santorum (R-PA) and George Voinovich (R-OH)—who all support the energy legislation—joined the veterans groups at a news conference today.

American Legion National Commander Richard J. Santos wrote in his letter to Daschle: "War and international terrorism have again brought into sharp focus the heavy reliance of the United States on imported oil. During times of crises, such reliance threatens our national security and economic well being . . . It is important that we develop domestic sources of oil, contained within our public lands—such as the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Robert E. Wallace, executive director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, wrote Daschle: "By passing H.R. 4, the Senate will be supporting our troops serving in combat on Operation Enduring Freedom, the American people and our national security with a comprehensive energy legislation that is desperately needed to diversify the energy supply for our country and chart a course for the future."

J. Eldon Yates, chairman and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Institute wrote Daschle: "The development of America's domestic energy resources is vital to our national security. We respectfully urge you to immediately pass H.R. 4, the comprehensive energy legislation . . . Following the horrific events of September 11, 2001, failure to pass this bill would pose a threat to our people, our economy, and our national security, that we all wore the uniform to maintain."

Also attending the news conference was Roger Thomas, 81, of Frederick, MD, who was a Navy radioman at Kaneohe Bay near Pearl Harbor when Japanese warplanes dropped bombs around him on December 7, 1941. Thomas was uninjured and went on to fly combat missions in World War II. "The terrorist attacks of September 11 were worse than the attack on Pearl Harbor, because unarmed civilians were murdered and many more died," Thomas said. "In World War II, America could produce all the oil we needed to fight back and defeat our enemies in battle, but today we're in a dangerous situation because we rely on other countries to provide our oil."

Today's military uses far more fuel than in past wars. For example, the 582,000 U.S. military personnel in the Persian Gulf War in 1991 consumed more oil on a daily basis than the 2 million men of the Allied armies that liberated Europe in World War II.

The United States gets about 55 percent of its oil from foreign nations—up steadily over the years from almost nothing during WWII, to 36 percent in 1973 and 46 percent as recently as 1991. America sends about \$100 billion a year to foreign nations to pay for imported oil.

Experts believe ANWR may contain the largest supply of oil ever found in American history—an estimated 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil, which could be turned into 742 billion gallons of gasoline. That's the equivalent of total U.S. gasoline consumption for nearly six years.

According to an analysis by Wharton Economics Forecasting Associates, development of oil reserves in the coastal plain of ANWR could create as many as 736,000 jobs in the United States—most of them outside Alaska—and pump billions of dollars into the U.S. economy.

ANWR covers 19.6 million acres, but the energy legislation before the Senate would open up only 1.5 million acres to exploration. Just a tiny fraction of that—about 2,000 acres of surface land—would experience oil drilling activity if oil were found.

STATEMENT OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS GROUPS

"OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY SECURITY IS OUR NATIONAL SECURITY"

We, the undersigned, representing our nation's veterans, strongly believe that the de-

velopment of America's domestic energy resources is a vital national security priority. The horrific events of September 11, 2001, constitute a threat to our people, our economy, and our nation's security. With U.S. troops actively engaged in combat overseas, we firmly believe that America can and will win this prolonged war against terrorism, using all its resources to defend our nation and the cause of freedom around the world.

Because of these beliefs, we applaud the House of Representatives for its bipartisan work in addressing our energy vulnerability by passing H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001" or the "Safe Act of 2001." It is imperative that the Senate pass the House version of H.R. 4 so that our nation can move forward in establishing our energy security, as well as our defense of freedom at home and abroad. It is essential for us to develop all domestic energy resources including the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

By passing H.R. 4, the comprehensive energy legislation, the Senate will be supporting our troops in the field, all Americans, their families, and our nation. We, as Veterans, stand united and respectfully request that the Senate vote on and pass H.R. 4.

J. ELDON YATES,
Chairman and Founder, Vietnam Veterans Institute.

JOSEPH SATRIANO,
National First Vice Commander, Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America.

VIETNAM VETERANS INSTITUTE,
October 30, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, the Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: We write today out of a sense of urgency concerning our national security as it relates to our energy supply. The development of America's domestic energy resources is vital to our national security. We respectfully urge you to immediately pass H.R. 4, the comprehensive energy legislation.

We are pleased the House of Representatives, acting with bipartisan support, addressed our energy vulnerability by passing H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001" or the "SAFE Act of 2001." It is imperative the Senate do the same. Following the horrific events of September 11, 2001, failure to pass this bill would pose a threat to our people, our economy, and our national security, that we all wore the uniform to maintain.

All Americans, as well as our military troops, need this legislation enacted into law. If we intend to rebuild our economy and continue the campaign against international terrorism and those who attack us, we must develop domestic sources of oil contained within our public lands—such as the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We must be able to rely to the fullest extent possible on our own resources to provide for the maintenance of our economy at home and our prolonged war effort abroad.

By passing H.R. 4, the comprehensive energy legislation now, the Senate will be supporting our troops in the field and all working Americans, including those displaced by this heartless act of aggression. We, as Veterans, stand united and cannot overstate the importance of this legislation, and respectfully request you lead the Senate by voting on and passing H.R. 4 so our nation can move forward in defense of freedom around the world.

We know that when the chips are down, America can and will stand and fight, using all its resources and all its might to defend our nation and the cause of freedom around

the world. Join us in this cause. Pass the comprehensive energy bill and help us rebuild America!

With the support of our members,
J. ELDON YATES,
Chairman and Founder,
Vietnam Veterans Institute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

THE RIGHT MEDICINE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, President Bush's speech to the American people last night was exactly the right medicine. America is truly concerned over terrorism and bioterrorism and what it means to our country.

I listened carefully to the President's speech in Atlanta, GA. I thought he struck the right tone. As concerned as we are—and we should be concerned—we take heart in the fact that this country has been strengthened by this crisis and this challenge. We have come together in what has been called the "re-United States of America."

Many people understand patriotism from a different perspective than they did just a few weeks ago. We stand in awe, in respect, and in admiration of many heroes in America. The President acknowledged them last night—the firefighters in New York City and across America, the people who are in law enforcement, medical rescue teams, teachers, postal workers, and of course the men and women in uniform who daily put their lives on the line for America. It is appropriate that we remember them as we try to wrestle with our personal concerns about safety and security since September 11.

I thought the President struck just the right chord in calling on America to bring out the very best in our Nation.

Within the last several weeks, Congress has been called on by the President many times to provide him with the authority and the resources to deal with this crisis. Without exception, Congress has responded in a strong bipartisan manner in an effort to make certain the President and certainly the armed services have all they need to execute this war effectively.

This week, the Senate considered the intelligence authorization bill which gives additional resources to the intelligence community. This is an important component of our effective defense of America and defense of our values. As a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I know full well that one of the most heartening events that has occurred since September 11 is the fact that countries around the world are now cooperating with the United States in fighting terrorism. Some of those countries, which have been our closest allies for years, frankly, did not take this subject as seriously as they should have. Now they do. As they cooperate with us, we have an opportunity to reach out and try to stop the spread of terrorism across the world.

CONFLICT DIAMONDS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, yesterday I had a press conference with two of my colleagues, Senator DEWINE of Ohio and Congressman TONY HALL of Ohio as well. We are cosponsors of legislation which deals with a phenomenon that has become increasingly important in this discussion.

It is not enough we search out Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants in their caves in Afghanistan and stop those cells of terrorist activity around the world. We have to find a way to starve them of the assets and resources they need to succeed. The President made it clear this week that this has to be an immediate response by the United States. So as part of antiterrorism, we have created new authority to deal with money laundering—money laundering and transfers of money that have been used to finance the terrorist network.

A little over a week ago, though, we came to learn that there was another source for the terrorist operation. That source is diamonds. It appears that in west Africa in particular, and in Sierra Leone, where terrorist organizations have taken control of the production of diamonds, they are not only using these diamonds to promote their terrorism in west Africa, but they are exchanging these diamonds in international commerce among terrorist groups.

In Sierra Leone and other countries, we have seen absolutely barbaric conduct by these terrorists in west Africa. We have seen people who have been killed and mutilated, hundreds if not thousands of people who faced amputations of their hands, arms, legs, and feet as terrorist payback for their lack of loyalty to the terrorist cause.

How do these terrorists keep moving along? They are mining diamonds which eventually find their way into some of the most comfortable, democratic, and peaceful parts of this world.

We have introduced legislation, the Conflict Diamonds Act, which will require a certification of the country of origin for diamonds so we can starve out the diamonds that are coming out of west Africa and other places where they are supporting terrorism.

This is so important. It was important before September 11. It is more important now because we have come to learn that Osama bin Laden gathered these diamonds before September 11 as his way of bankrolling his terrorist operation. Diamonds do not leave a paper trail. A person with a handful of diamonds worth many thousands of dollars can stick them in his pocket or in a purse or in a packet and move through any metal detector, any security device undetected. That is a reality.

We have joined in a bipartisan fashion with the jewelry industry and with the diamond industry to promote the conflict diamonds bill to stop this illicit terrorist trade in diamonds.

The United States plays such a critical role when it comes to this issue.

We in the United States import 65 percent of all the diamonds in the world. If we put strong standards in place and our allies who have joined us in this war against terrorism also pass similar standards, we can starve off a source of money, a source of terrorism that is clearly becoming rampant, even as we speak.

Diamonds have always been a symbol of enduring love. Unfortunately, today they have become the currency of terrorism. I know the House Ways and Means Committee had a hearing on this bill last week. I am happy the Senate passed this bill earlier this year, and we are going to have to address it again.

I call on all my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to consider this a matter of great urgency and join us in a bipartisan fashion. Senator FEINGOLD, Senator DEWINE, I, Congressman TONY HALL, and Congressman FRANK WOLF, in a true bipartisan fashion, have tried to move this important issue forward.

I close on this issue by giving special credit to Congressman TONY HALL, who has been a leader on this for years—not for months but for years. It is his good work that has brought us to this point. I am happy to be an ally of TONY HALL in any cause, but when it comes to a cause of this importance, I hope my colleagues will take a close look at this legislation.

AMERICA'S ECONOMY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as part of the challenge facing America today, we have to consider the state of America's economy, and it is a sad state of affairs. After almost 10 years of unparalleled prosperity in the history of the United States, during the past year we have seen terrible things occur—a massive growth in unemployment. The number of people who have been laid off across America is now reaching, unfortunately, historic levels. Last month saw the biggest 1-month increase in unemployment in 21 years. Nearly 7½ million Americans are now out of work, and the economists have warned us that a 1 or 2 million more may be losing their jobs over the next 12 months. Small and large businesses have faced this.

A friend of mine who deals with bankruptcies has told me we will be shocked as we hear the names of the major corporations and businesses which are going to go bankrupt in the near future. It is a fact of life this downturn in the economy is touching us in virtually every area of American life.

This is a time of year when many American businesses hope to show their greatest profit and success. This retail season around the holidays means so much to companies across America. Unfortunately, the sales are slow and the indication is clear that the American people are holding back. It is an understandable impulse on