

coalition against terror for critical intelligence to protect Americans from possible future attacks. Acting with the support of allies, including, hopefully, Arab and Muslim allies, would limit possible damage to that coalition and our antiterrorism effort. But as General Wesley Clark, former Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe, has recently noted, a premature, go-it-alone invasion of Iraq "would supercharge recruiting for al-Qaida."

Second, our efforts should have a goal of disarming Saddam Hussein of all his weapons of mass destruction. Iraq agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction at the end of the Persian Gulf War and to verification by the U.N. and the International Atomic Energy Agency that this had been done. According to the U.N. and the IAEA, and undisputed by the administration, inspections during the 1990s neutralized a substantial portion of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and getting inspectors back to finish the job is critical. We know he did not cooperate with all of the inspection regime.

We know what needs to be done. But the fact is we had that regime, and it is important now to call on the Security Council of the U.N. to insist that those inspectors be on the ground. The goal is disarmament, unfettered access. It is an international effort, and with that Saddam Hussein must comply. Otherwise, there will be consequences, including appropriate use of force. The prompt resumption of inspections and disarmament, under an expedited timetable and with unfettered access in Iraq, is imperative.

Third, weapons inspections should be enforceable. If efforts by the U.N. weapons inspectors are tried and fail, a range of potential U.N. sanctions means, including proportionate military force, should be considered. I have no doubt that this Congress would act swiftly to authorize force in such circumstances. This does not mean giving the United Nations a veto over U.S. actions. Nobody wants to do that. It simply means, as Chairman LEVIN has observed, that Saddam Hussein is a world problem and should be addressed in the world arena.

Finally, our approach toward Iraq must be consistent with international law and the framework of collective security developed over the last 50 years or more. It should be sanctioned by the Security Council under the U.N. charter, to which we are a party and by which we are legally bound. Only a broad coalition of nations, united to disarm Saddam Hussein, while preserving our war on terror, can succeed.

Our response will be far more effective if Saddam Hussein sees the whole world arrayed against him. We should act forcefully, resolutely, sensibly, with our allies—and not alone—to disarm Saddam Hussein. Authorizing the preemptive go-alone use of force right now, which is what the resolution before us calls for, in the midst of con-

tinuing efforts to enlist the world community to back a tough, new disarmament resolution on Iraq, could be a very costly mistake for our country.

Madam President, quite often at the end of debates on amendments, we thank our staffs for the work they have done and appreciate their hard work. At the end of my statement today on the floor of the Senate as to why I am opposed to the resolution before us that we will be debating today and in the days to come, which is too open-ended and would provide the President with authority for preemptive military action, including a ground invasion in Iraq, I would like to thank my staff. I would like to thank my staff for never trying one time to influence me to make any other decision than what I honestly and truthfully believe is right for the State I represent, Minnesota, for my country, and for the world in which my children and my grandchildren live. To all of my staff, I thank you for believing in me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, thousands of working families in Oregon feel as if they have been hit by an economic wrecking ball. From Ontario to Portland, OR workers have been laid off their jobs, left to fend for themselves, while their medical and energy bills skyrocket, and they have been left out of what Larry Lindsey and the administration's economic team keep calling an economic recovery.

Oregonians are hungry for leadership on the economic issue. We are trying to do our part at home down the road at the election. All of Oregon's elected officials are going to be working with the private sector on a new economic game plan. I think starting in January, with the ISTEA legislation, we will have an opportunity to make some important investments. But Oregonians expect economic leadership from Washington, DC, now. That is what they want today.

I am anxious to work with the administration on these issues, but there has just not been the leadership forthcoming. For example, on the trade issue, I cast a vote—unpopular with many with whom I am close—to give the President the authority to negotiate trade agreements. Trade involves one out of seven jobs in Oregon. The trade jobs pay better than the nontrade jobs. So I want to meet the administration halfway.

Unfortunately, the administration and its economic team is not willing to move forward and, in fact, is moving backward on a host of issues. I want to outline several of those this morning, Madam President.

It is very obvious we need a transfusion—immediate transfusion—that can restore our economic health. There is nothing that could bring our econ-

omy back faster than getting increased transportation funds for the States. One State after another has shown that money for transportation projects, particularly repaving and other maintenance items, gets money into our economy and creates family wage employment for our workers faster than any other area.

A number of Senators, Democrats and Republicans, understand this. Unfortunately, the administration's economic team does not agree. They continue to propose significantly less money than is needed for our economic and transportation needs and push for it.

While the transportation officials of my State calculate that the administration's approach will mean tens of millions of dollars less funding for Oregon's struggling economy and hundreds of fewer family wage construction jobs that could put our citizens back to work, the administration persists in taking an approach that I think is a huge mistake for our country, particularly our economic needs.

On the health issue, something the Chair knows much about, we can find common ground, for example, on a measure that could significantly lower health costs, a bipartisan approach involving making wider use of generic drugs, the same drug as essentially the brand name in the majority of instances.

Senators of both political parties want to support this issue. There is support on the Democratic side and the Republican side. The administration will not support something that could have immediate benefit—immediate benefit—for the economic crunch that our citizens face and would have bipartisan support in the Senate.

Finally, it seems on issues such as unemployment compensation, we have Senators, again, who would like to move forward to provide what I call this transfusion of assistance to the people who are so hard hit. Thousands of laid-off workers are exhausting their temporary extension of benefits every week. The program expires on December 31 of this year. Anyone laid off before June 30 of this year is going to lose all their benefits come December 31, and anyone who lost a job after June 30 will not have any Federal extension in place when their State benefits expire.

For my home State with soaring unemployment, this means that nearly 30,000 laid-off workers currently getting a temporary extension of unemployment compensation would see the end of their benefits at the end of the year, according to the Department of Labor.

Again, it seems to me this is an issue where Democrats and Republicans could, as has happened so often, come together and provide some solace, some actual relief to these families who are hurting in our country. I will be talking more about this issue in the days ahead while working on a significant

health reform proposal that I have been discussing with colleagues.

I come back in closing to the central reason I have come to the Chamber, and that is that in my State and in much of the country, our families are hurting and our economy is hemorrhaging. I have listed three issues where, if there was some leadership from the administration—transportation, lowering medical costs immediately, particularly on the prescription side, which has the support of Senators of both parties, the expanded access to generic drugs, and finally unemployment compensation—three steps where, with a little bit of leadership from the administration on these vital economic issues, we could take steps now that would help working families.

Let's not go the wrong way. Let's find an opportunity for Democrats and Republicans to work on key issues and go the right way, which means providing economic relief to our working families.

I know the Senator from Georgia has been waiting very patiently. I yield the floor, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

IRAQ RESOLUTION

Mr. MILLER. Madam President, I have signed on as an original cosponsor of the Iraq resolution that our President has proposed, and I would like to tell you a story that I believe explains why I think that is the right path to take.

A few weeks ago, we were doing some work on my back porch back home, tearing out a section of old stacked rocks, when all of a sudden I uncovered a nest of copperhead snakes. I am not one to get alarmed at snakes. I know they perform some valuable functions, like eating rats.

When I was a young lad, I kept snakes as pets. I had an indigo snake. I had a bull snake. I had a beautiful colored corn snake, and many others. I must have had a dozen king snakes at one time or another. They make great pets, and you only have to give them a little mouse every 30 days.

I read all the books by Raymond C. Ditmars, who was before most herpetologists of the day—that is a person who is an expert on snakes—and for a while I wanted to be a herpetologist, but the pull of being a big league shortstop out ran that childhood dream.

I reminisce this way to explain that snakes do not scare me like they do most people, and I guess the reason is that I know the difference between those snakes that are harmless and those that can kill you. In fact, I bet I may be the only Senator in this body who can look at the last 3 inches of a snake's tail and tell you whether it is poisonous. I can also tell the sex of a snake, but that is another story.

A copperhead snake will kill you. It could kill one of my dogs. It could kill

one of my grandchildren. It could kill any one of my four great-grandchildren. They play all the time where I found those killers.

You know, when I discovered those copperheads, I did not call my wife Shirley for advice, as I usually do on most things. I did not go before the city council. I did not yell for help from my neighbors. I just took a hoe and knocked them in the head and killed them, dead as a doorknob.

I guess you could call it unilateral action, a preemptive strike. Perhaps if you had been watching me, you could have even said it was bellicose and reactive. I took their poisonous heads off because they were a threat to me, they were a threat to my home, they were a threat to my family, and all I hold dear. And isn't that what this is all about?

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECEPTION FOR LANCE ARMSTRONG

Mr. REID. Madam President, Lance Armstrong is a man who has caught the attention of the entire American public and the world because of his athletic prowess, but more importantly than that because of his fighting back from devastating cancer. He is, of course, the greatest cyclist in the world today, and maybe of all time. This all occurred after he had a very severe bout of cancer. He is going to be in the Capitol building today.

A reception is going to be held for him in the Dirksen Building starting at 11:30. He is going to make some remarks around 12:00. Senators interested in meeting one of the greatest athletes of all time, or any staff within the sound of my voice, are welcome to come to 192 Dirksen to see the great Lance Armstrong.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Mr. REID. Madam President, there is pending legislation we certainly would like to move. We have tried very hard to get some help in this regard. This legislation gives the same number of weeks of benefits for unemployment

compensation as was given under President Bush, Sr., in the early 1990s. Only Oregon and Washington, the States with the highest unemployment in the Nation, will get a little bit more, and that is because of an extension of Congress passed in March. The March bill provided up to 65 weeks of benefits for those two States. Our bill only provides up to 7 more.

This is extremely important. We have people out of work. That might not sound like much to somebody who has a job, but to someone who does not have a job, it is everything. We have 2 million more Americans unemployed than we had 18 months ago. We have economic problems that have been kind of covered up. We have a situation where there is \$4.5 trillion lost in the stock market. If someone was going to retire with their 401(k) or their IRA, they would have to work up to 5 years more, having lost 30 to 35 percent of the value of their retirement.

I have people I welcome to Washington every Thursday. They came to me today saying they do not know what they will do because they lost so much of the value of what they will retire on. They do not know what they will do.

We need to extend unemployment compensation. We did it before under President Bush senior. There was an emergency then. We did it on more than one occasion. We only want to do it now on one occasion.

As I indicated, the bill will provide an additional 20 weeks of extended benefits for high unemployment States and an additional 13 weeks to all other States for workers who run out or about to run out of benefits.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3009

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 619, S. 3009, a bill to provide for a 13-week extension of unemployment compensation; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and there be no intervening action or debate.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and I will object for the leadership, as a ranking Republican on the committee that has jurisdiction over unemployment compensation for our side, there is not unanimous view that something should be done in this area. The most important thing is, for now, we object.

We would think in terms of looking at the economy and not only ways to support people who are in need at a time when the economy might be in problems down the road, but also to consider as part of a package things that would help the economy grow and create jobs.

It is essential we think in terms of expanding the economy when we put together packages that are needed for economic relief and not just to help