

small issues so that every 25 years we can have a repeat of the same debate. I think we ought to debate big issues. I think we ought to have a world view change here, with respect to how we want to power our vehicle fleet. I think we want to convert to hydrogen fuel.

That ought not scare those who produce oil, natural gas, and use coal. In fact, those same companies are some of the companies in the lead, in the forefront of moving to a hydrogen economy.

You can produce hydrogen from fossil fuels. We are always going to need and use fossil fuels. But wouldn't it be great to power our vehicle fleet with hydrogen and fuel cells so that we don't need Middle East oil?

Wouldn't that be a wonderful future for this country and at the same time improve our environment, because we are going to use hydrogen and fuel cells and put only water vapor out of the back of the car through the tailpipe?

That is exactly what we ought to do. How you do you get that done? I have met with representatives of the hydrogen and fuel cell industries. They are anxious. They are engaged in substantial research. But the fact is they cannot do this alone.

The conversion of the vehicle fleet in our country to the big idea of the hydrogen economy and fuel cells will not and cannot happen without the support of the Government. I propose an Apollo-like program. When I say Apollo program, I am talking about the program by which John F. Kennedy said, "We are going to go to the Moon by the end of the decade." I think our country should decide to move to the hydrogen economy and fuel cell vehicles with a big idea and in a big way to help make it happen as public policy. The Europeans and the Japanese are moving in that direction, and we should, too.

As I indicated, last year I put a piece in the energy bill that says we aspire to have a goal of 2.5 million vehicles on the road in 2020 in this country using fuel cells.

Now, the President proposed a \$1.2 billion hydrogen fuel cell program. Only half of that is new money. That is not a big idea. It is the right idea. But it is not big and bold.

I propose a \$6.5 billion 10-year program that is really going to move this country to say we want to enact change. We want to move to a hydrogen economy and develop fuel cell vehicles to help create the infrastructure for the production of hydrogen and the storage and transportation of hydrogen. We want to provide incentives for people to buy the fuel cell vehicle.

This will be one of the best things this country has done. It will be one of the big ideas of the century. That is why I think it is so important.

We talk about this with the backdrop of a troubled world—substantial problems in the Middle East, Central and Southern Asia, terrorism, North Korea, and Iraq. When you think of the difficulties that exist and the small

thread our economy hangs on, making sure that tonight, tomorrow, the next day, and every day of the week and every month we get enough oil into this country from places like Iraq, like Venezuela, like Saudi Arabia, and Algeria in order to power our vehicle fleet, then we ought to understand this economy is held hostage by forces we don't control.

It is dangerous for this economy to be dependent on things we cannot and will not be able to control in the long term. But we can—as we have in many other areas—create incentives and new technology and new opportunities to solve old problems.

That is exactly what I propose with this initiative. I intend to introduce this the day we get back. I expect and hope it will be bipartisan. I have been talking to some Democrats and some Republicans.

The President has said this is a good idea. Good for him. I commend him for it. I think he proposed a step in the right direction. And, frankly, having the Bush administration be supportive of this kind of technology change is excellent. It is good for this country. But the Administration's approach is more timid and less bold than it should be.

I am going to propose an Apollo-type program that says let us really move and get this accomplished. I hope to have substantial bipartisan support as we begin to write an energy bill this year in the Senate.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now return to legislative session.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

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

A TRYING TIME FOR OUR NATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few minutes I will be closing the Senate for our recess break, but I wanted to take this opportunity to speak a few moments on an issue that is on my mind and on the mind of my wife and family, and it is on the minds of most every American today in what I would consider very trying times, from an intel-

lectual standpoint, from an emotional standpoint, a spiritual standpoint. And indeed, this week has been a very trying week for the Nation.

There is much alarm about the increased threat of terrorism. We know we are at a time that is closely approaching the possible use of force to ensure that Saddam Hussein is disarmed of weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical agents and biological agents; and we all feel the stress all across America—not just in this body in Washington, DC, and in New York, where the stress level is high because of the symbolic value of being a potential site for attack. We are concerned for families, we are concerned for friends, we are concerned for neighbors all over America, and we are concerned for the service men and women overseas.

As elected officials in this body, we have taken the opportunity over the last 3 or 4 days, coinciding with the increased alert, to talk about the nature of our duties and responsibilities both to our constituents, as well as to our families as we serve in this body. We, in the Senate, have a great honor to serve in this beautiful Chamber, in this beautiful Capitol Building, and it is indeed the symbol of our Nation's strength and our Nation's purpose. Throughout this week, while fully aware that our enemies, as I speak now and as so many have debated so many issues over the course of the week, are plotting their evil designs. We know that. Yet we continue to carry out our duties as Senators and as citizens. It is truly remarkable.

I could not be prouder of the many fine women and men who make up this institution. Yes, I have mentioned the Senators, but I also include the thousands of individuals who come to this building and surrounding buildings on Capitol Hill to support the activities of what goes on in this body and in this room as we debate and amend and pass legislation. Through very difficult, long, and hard hours so many have demonstrated to this fine city and to the Nation that life must go on in times of threat and increased alert.

Terrorists will have won when they can so intimidate us that we stop performing our most basic duties and responsibilities. Clearly, they have not, nor will they.

Last week Secretary Tom Ridge of the Department of Homeland Security announced the President had determined that the Nation should be moved to that next higher level of alert, a heightened threat level. Attorney General John Ashcroft explained this was done in response to recent reporting that indicates an increased likelihood that al-Qaida may attempt to attack Americans in the United States and/or abroad around the end of the Haj, the Muslim religious period ending mid-February, 2003.

What does this mean? It is confusing to the American people. It is confusing based on what one reads and sees on

television. People see the imagery. It looks like a thermometer going to that orange level, with that orange beginning to pulse. It is confusing to people as to what it means: What does it mean to my spouse and to my children? What does it mean when I drive to work and drive home? What does it mean to my constituents back in Tennessee or the Presiding Officer's constituents in Utah? What does it mean? What should our response be?

As was explained to us, I think very well, from a Government standpoint, an increased threat level captures a response where all Federal agencies focus and work together to reduce the vulnerabilities and increase security, and this, in itself, serves as a deterrent to the terrorist whose goal is to personally terrorize and strike fear. The terrorist wants to kill, but the terrorist really wants to strike fear, to paralyze, and to bring pain and paralysis to America. We see a reduction in vulnerabilities and increased security in this deterrence.

Also, as was explained well, this heightened alert—that is, Federal agencies working together, but at the same time literally tens of thousands of intelligence agencies, public health agencies, hospitals, law enforcement at the State level, at the county level, at the city level, at the community level and, indeed, at the neighborhood level are all activated and begin communicating and coordinating—acts as a deterrent to that would-be terrorist who all of a sudden says: My action—whatever it is—has less chance of being successful.

I wish to also mention the responsibility we have as citizens. I just spoke about government. That is law enforcement and public health. But we also, as individuals, have responsibilities. That is what I think has become confusing to American parents and families. What do we do? How do we respond? What should our efforts be?

Indeed, Secretary Ridge, at the same time we have this activation from above coming down, integrated I think very well today—and that is why I am comfortable with where we are today. We can always do better, we can always be better prepared, but I am very comfortable with where we are today.

Secretary Ridge asked that individual Americans remain alert. We use the words "remain vigilant." All of a sudden, instead of having government working, we have 250 million people out there being the eyes and ears of law enforcement, and that is where the real power is in terms of stopping a potential act of terrorism.

The recommendations that have come out over the last week were picked up and put on television such that, at the end of the week, we were just saying: Duct tape on doors and plastic sheets. All of what I just said, in terms of this huge coordination and communication network of deterrence above and the power of 250 million people being vigilant and picking up on

anybody whose behavior might be a little bit different in one's neighborhood, all of a sudden gets symbolized by a piece of duct tape. That is where it gets confusing and vague. The reason I have come to the floor is to try to put that in some perspective.

From the information standpoint, we in Congress are aware of that confusion and that confusing message. People want to go out and say the messenger is not doing a good job. We are all in this together. It is important for us in Congress to make sure we have the very best intelligence coming in to make sure when we go to a threat level, it is made on the best information, and that is the precision of information. But we also have an obligation to help not just to educate but to share the information we have with what individuals can do and families can do, make it understandable and not as confusing or vague as it was after anthrax hit, as it was after September 11, and even over the course of this week: What do we do as individuals?

It is important at this time of heightened awareness and vigilance that we also maintain the right perspective. As I have talked to people throughout Tennessee and family members who are not here in Washington, they have watched on television gas masks being put on, duct tape being put up; they see artillery with the Capitol in the background. I am speaking mainly to families at this standpoint. We have to be very careful because with 24-hour news cycles 7 days a week, every 30 minutes the news cycle being repeated, with the potential use of germs, microbes, bacteria, chemical agents, all of which are new in this arsenal of terrorism—new in terms of the weapons of mass destruction we traditionally think about being nuclear 50, 40 years ago, now we are thinking about little viruses and bacteria—it is easy to overstate, and all of a sudden the pain and paralysis you begin to feel inside, if you are mesmerized by that television set, seeing these images come again and again, we have to be careful. We all know these visual images are put on television to capture your attention. We know this captures our emotion and attention because we have that inner fear that we do not want that little virus to hit us.

Again, we have to be careful as we look at television, as we look at media today, not to let it feed our paralysis and fear. I am a parent. I have two high school boys; they are still children. I do not want them sitting there every day watching what is, yes, real, but in terms of perception, if you just watch television, you say: This risk is huge; that virus or bacteria is going to hit tomorrow; and there is nothing I can do about it. I am helpless, and things are out of control, and I don't know what is going to happen to my parents or kids.

I do think the vigilance is important as we go forth because, as I said just a few minutes ago, there are no better

eyes than those of 250 million people who, in driving to work every day, notice something just not quite right, or in your everyday surroundings, there might be somebody just hanging around for the last 3 or 4 days who did not used to be hanging around. That is the sort of vigilance and alertness that becomes a deterrent and also, of course, important information if there is potential terrorist activity.

My perspective for a lot of this has been as a surgeon and a doctor—I have been very involved in viruses, chemical agents, and microbes—and as a Senator because of my participation in a lot of hearings on bioterrorism, the risk of bioterrorism, but also my experience as a husband and a parent who sees the impact this can, indeed, have on families in a very direct way.

Past generations have been affected in many ways, as well, by the threat of nuclear war. When I was very young and the generation before me lived with this accommodation of the image of a nuclear explosion and immediately in schools having exercises of hiding under a desk or seeking cover under a desk, of bomb shelters being built in communities, the same discussion going on in terms of having a supply of water and food for 3 days or 5 days, people converting their basements to bomb shelters—in the same way that situation took a lot of accommodation, learning, and new ways of thinking, indeed, we are having to do that today, 40 years later. We are doing it with the viruses and bacteria and chemical agents. The same way we got through without a major catastrophe in the last 50 years, we need to get through this with an understanding and an increased knowledge that we need to share about chemical agents and microbes. It is a new vocabulary. There is a lot to learn, and that can be overwhelming.

If one is watching this on TV, they know there is a real risk—a tiny risk but a risk—that there is a body of information that we need to get accustomed to understanding, just as we did with nuclear weapons 40 and 50 years ago. The reason I encourage people, no matter who they are, to learn a little bit about the microbes and chemical agents and what one would do if something happened in their neighborhood, is because it is real. The terrorist activity we are talking about is weapons of mass destruction.

We know people such as Saddam Hussein have those weapons of mass destruction, these viruses and bacteria. When we see these linkages to al-Qaida and to terrorist activity, it is incumbent upon us, as Americans, to learn more about these biological agents.

The good news is the Government has responded aggressively in a lot of ways in terms of funding, in terms of organization, in terms of coordination. My message is that families need to respond, too, not with pain and paralysis and increased stress but by taking the

opportunity to learn, to share information, to talk about it over the dinner table and to ask questions.

If someone asks a question of somebody and they do not know, ask it of somebody else. That sharing of information brings down the stress, brings down the potential for pain and paralysis. With that, we will get through this. We will get through it in a comfortable way and everything will be OK.

Our officials at all levels of Government are taking the appropriate steps. I say that as a Government official. I think it is important for Americans to recognize that this body, the House, and the President of the United States has responded to make sure in terms of prevention, in terms of protection, and in terms of response that we have acted and will continue to act.

I will run through several questions that I get all the time. How big is the risk? The risk of biological weapons or chemical weapons, although I think it is higher than nuclear weapons being used in our homeland, is still small. It is tiny. It is real. It is bigger than it was 2 years ago. It is bigger than it was 5 years ago. It is bigger than 10 years ago, but the overall risk of biological and chemical agents being used successfully as agents of mass destruction in this country is small. The threat is real and our response needs to be proportionate to that overall small risk.

There are things that families need to know and be prepared to do. A couple of questions that I get are: What does high alert mean? The alerts, as I said, are the way that the Federal Government responds to increased threats. Typically, these threats are nonspecific. They do not say an attack is going to happen in this city or in this location at a certain time. The intelligence is gathered through a myriad of sources from all over the world, and when they reach a certain threshold where it is clear there is something potentially going on the threat level is raised. Government responds and we, as individuals, need to respond.

I do not think everybody needs a disaster supply kit. It may be that if one lives near a highly visible potential target that they would be more likely to develop that disaster supply kit, and I leave that to individuals to discuss with their family.

What should our response be? Communities need to respond by increasing their vigilance because that increase in vigilance does empower us as part of this war that I would say is an extension of what may well go on in Iraq—it is part of our patriotic responsibilities of being a citizen in America to discuss and learn something about what the biological agents might be, and to remain vigilant.

People ask me all the time while I am in the public, what should I look for? We do not know where terrorists are.

Terrorists are everywhere. The anthrax letters a year ago were first in

Florida, not in Washington, DC. It was in New Jersey and, yes, New York and Washington, DC. True, terrorism can be anywhere, although terrorist activity traditionally goes to highly symbolic areas and sites.

It was 10 years ago, by the way, that we had the first big terrorist activity in the United States. We know what happened during that second attack on the World Trade Center. We have seen biological weapons used for the first time in Washington, DC, and in Florida in October, just a month after September 11.

The question of what do I do if I find myself in the middle of an attack, it depends on whether one is inside or outside, and that is the sort of information that can be exchanged with local law enforcement, and public health and emergency responders. If people will go to the Web sites of the Department of Homeland Security, they can see what those responses would be.

I think it is important, as a family, that people talk about communication, what happens if something occurs right now, what telephone number do the children have. I would say to have a number both in State, in the neighborhood, an extra number to call inside, but also out of State. A decision needs to be made where to go. I encourage people, if there were a biological attack or some sort of chemical attack, to have everybody in their family know where would you go.

Let me comment on one last thing and then I will close. This is a time of stress. In talking to my colleagues and their families, I sense that when we go to this high alert—and as a physician I know this—there is a sense of stress that may or may not be talked about or noticed. I have to put my physician hat on for one second, because it can be reflected both physically and emotionally. I think it is important at least to be aware of it.

People do not sleep as well. Some people eat more; some people eat less. Some people develop tummy aches or belly aches. Some people develop back pain. That is sort of the physical and emotional manifestations: irritability, detachment, periods of depression, feeling blue, being on edge, waking up in the middle of the night.

That is normal. The body is remarkable. We are truly remarkable. The fact that we have this response, it is physiologic but it has an emotional component; it has a mental component and a physical component. The important issue is how one deals with it. When we go to these elevated stress levels or heightened threat levels, which correlate with stress levels, it is important to realize that everybody feels it to a certain extent. It is not just you. You are not alone.

There are a lot of things you can do. First and foremost, communicate. Talk to other people. Talk about it over the dinner table. Share. You have to be careful a little bit because if you are

anxious and you feel the stress and you want to talk to your children, you might wait and talk an hour later when you have settled down a little bit. The big thing is to talk. Listen, talk, share your concerns.

Two, keep the faith. Some people rely more on drawing strength from traditions, from their synagogue, or their mosque, or their church.

Third, embrace daily routines. Do not stop doing the things that you do every day. Go ahead and continue to do them. In fact, focus on doing them better than you did in the past because you want to feel as if you have more control over your life. If you work hard to do something well, like bake a cake, make sure it is a good cake. Take pride in that cake because it gives you sense of control.

As I mentioned earlier, take a news break. Do not get mesmerized by the television or the newspapers or as you are flipping through the newspaper do not stop on that one article that will scare you to death in terms of what a smallpox virus will do to you. It is real, so you have to be careful, but once you know it you do not need to read it every day as you go through the paper. You do not need to watch the 24-hour news channels where you see those same images of gas masks and what the agents can do to people.

The fifth is, join a group. Participate with others. Do not lock yourself down and worry about this. Some people play cards or play bridge. Take part in something that is larger than yourself. With most people it probably begins with family, doing family activities.

Again, as a doctor—and then I will take my doctor hat off—exercise regularly, eat well, and get a good night's rest. That is enough of the physician end of things. It is a time of heightened anxiety, increased stress and if we do not address each of these head on it does result in pain and paralysis.

We are about to begin a recess that will take us to our home and to our families. I encourage all of our colleagues to engage in a quiet resolve that they have shown on the floor of the Senate in completing the Nation's business.

It has been a hugely successful first 45 days as we look at what has been accomplished in terms of nominations, unemployment insurance, addressing the 11 appropriations left over from the last Congress. It is pivotal. Now we can move on to the agenda which is very exciting for me as we look at jobs, and we look at the economy, and we look at growth and the feeling, the security in our everyday lives, and the health care issues, and the education issues as we go forward.

When we go back home to our constituents, we will be held to a high standard. They want to make absolutely sure and we need to make it very clear to them that we are totally committed to defending them internationally, globally, and here in our homeland. Really, in each of those categories, defending them in this war

against terrorism. We have done it today. We have huge challenges over the coming weeks to continue to do so.

Under President Bush's leadership, we have done a tremendous amount in making America safer from our enemies. We have reorganized Government and created a new Cabinet-level agency that consolidates, coordinates, and maximizes communication in our antiterror efforts. We passed the landmark bipartisan legislation in June 2002 to provide additional funding for our local law enforcement authorities to protect the Nation from public health threats, such as bioterrorism. We included \$3.5 billion in the bill we passed—18 hours ago—that will go directly to the first responders. In the event something were to happen, those first responders become the most important people. That is who you will call. They are the people who provide treatment.

The Department of Health and Human Services 2 years ago did not have smallpox vaccine. Right now, because of the hard work and the dedication and leadership of President Bush, we know the Department of Health and Human Services has obtained and procured enough smallpox vaccine for every man, every woman, and every child in the United States.

That is but a part of what Government has done, and will continue to do, as we go forward. But we must also commit to defending ourselves from the terrorists' most dangerous weapon of all, the guts of what my remarks have been, and that is fear. It was one of our greatest Presidents ever, President Franklin Roosevelt, who in an earlier and darker moment in our history, calmed the Nation with the gentle reminder that we have nothing to fear but fear itself. In these days of stress and distress we must never forget the great words of those who have preceded us, and the test that they, over many generations, endured.

At such a moment, I often turn to a favorite piece of Scripture or a passage from an inspirational work. As we in the Congress recess to our homes and families for the coming week, let me offer a closing thought, a passage from Thomas Paine's classic treatise "The Crisis."

Lay your shoulders to the wheel, better have too much force than too little when so great an object is at stake. Let it be told to the future world that in the depth of winter when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet and repulse it.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, on February 14, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the bill that established the Department of Commerce. In doing so he authorized the creation of what had been, to date, one of the larg-

est and most complicated departments in the Federal Government. The original Department of Commerce was responsible for an overwhelming set of tasks, including the administration of the census, and the development of foreign and domestic commerce.

Over the past decade the Commerce Department's role has evolved, but it has always kept the vitality of American industry as its core value. My State has a lot at stake in the daily operations of this department; among its original duties was the supervision of the Alaskan fur-seal harvest and our State's salmon fisheries.

When the House debated the Commerce Department's founding in 1903, Congressman Robert Mann of Indiana noted that the Department was possibly the best hope we had of saving the Alaska salmon fisheries from extinction. Alaska assumed control of its salmon fisheries after Statehood, but the Commerce Department is still involved with our fisheries. One hundred years later the people of Alaska work closely with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service to manage the most productive groundfish fisheries in the world in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

The past century has confirmed what the groups and individuals who originally lobbied for the Department of Commerce knew 100 years ago; ours is a distinctly commercial and industrial nation. The ingenuity of our workers, the dedication of our citizens and the perseverance demonstrated by our entrepreneurs are what make our Nation's economy unique and enduring. However, ingenuity, dedication and perseverance remain untapped resources without leadership and guidance to help them fulfill their potential. For 100 years the Department of Commerce has provided that leadership.

In 1981, Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige wrote that the Commerce Department's mission was to "serve the nation, its business community, and its individual citizens." That mission lives today in the daily work of the Department and in the leadership of Secretary Don Evans. I have served with seventeen Secretaries of Commerce since I first came to the Senate, and consider many from both parties, including Malcolm Baldrige, Bill Daley, Norm Mineta, and of course Don Evans, to be my good friends.

Today, on behalf of all Alaskans, I congratulate the Department on a century of great achievement.

FISCAL YEAR 2003 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, my decision to vote for the omnibus spending bill late last night was a difficult one. It is the largest single spending bill ever passed by Congress. It represents work that should have been completed last fall, and crams into one bill what

should have been 11 separate bills, each with its own separate debate and deliberation. This is no way to legislate, and the final product reflects that unfortunate process.

I was gratified that many important obligations received funding, but unfortunately many others did not. At the same time, this massive document contains far too many provisions that were never exposed to the daylight of publicity and debate. My vote in favor of this bill was a very close call.

First, the good news. Unlike an earlier version that I could not support, this bill restored funds for Byrne grants that local law enforcement agencies need in these dangerous times. In addition, I was able to add language that permits local police to use COPS money for the many hours of overtime involved as they meet the demands of homeland defense. Law enforcement projects in my State of Delaware, from State to county to local agencies, will receive \$3.5 million in funds from that COPS program.

But the bad news is that \$3 billion for first responders was cut out of this legislation. Those are funds to support firefighters and police and local emergency response centers. Another \$170 million was cut from the Transportation Security Administration, despite the obvious need for additional protection for our Nation's air, highway, and rail systems. Funds for port security and border security were also cut. The debate over these programs will continue soon, as we begin budget debates for the coming year and a security supplemental spending bill, and I will continue the fight to provide the citizens of this country all of the protection they need.

And we must expose those last-minute, back-room deals that litter the thousands of pages of this legislation. Some are clear wastes of taxpayer money in these critical times. Others weaken important environmental protections, and have no place in these spending bills.

On balance, I concluded that this legislation which allows the Federal Government to continue its important functions narrowly deserves my support. But there is much here that needs to be fixed, so the debate that should have occurred on this huge, complicated bill will continue.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the significance of Black History Month. This week, I would like to discuss briefly an issue of great importance in African American history, and one that remains of vital importance still today—the problem of hate in our society and hate crimes.

As most of my colleagues know, Senator KENNEDY and I have introduced hate crimes legislation during the past two Congresses. I think it is important for my colleagues to know just some of the background behind hate crimes