

June 30 when we want the Iraqi people to take control of their governance, and we want the people to have a say. We set that deadline.

All of those who do not want freedom and democracy in Iraq, whether they be people who want control inside Iraq or whether they are people from outside Iraq who want to control the Middle East and make sure there is not a working democracy, all of those forces are now coming together against our coalition forces.

This is a very important time in our war on terrorism, and our hearts are with our troops on the ground. Our hearts are with their families right now.

Our hearts are with those brave civilians who have volunteered to go in to help stabilize the country of Iraq and to get an economy going there. We know they paid the price from the horrendous pictures we saw last week. Those volunteers who were trying to serve were not only murdered in cold blood, but their bodies were defiled. We will never forget those pictures, and we will never forget the pictures we have been seeing day after day out of Iraq.

We are here today to say how much we appreciate what they are doing. We are also here to say that every one of those who have died, they have not died in vain because we are not going to walk away from this battle. America will not cut and run and render those great losses meaningless. We will not do it because we have a President who is willing to stand firm in the face of adversity. Our President is supported by troops who are every bit as committed and dedicated as he is to the cause.

This is a very important time. I think it is so important that we should look at what is happening and make sure we are not doing anything which would hurt our cause while our troops are in harm's way.

I have to say I am troubled when I hear leaders say this is another Vietnam. We have troops on the ground in harm's way. Is it really productive for us to be labeling Iraq after 1 year as another Vietnam? Is it helpful to heap criticism on our President? Is it even helpful to be dissecting what happened in the run-up on the war on terrorism that began on September 11, 2001? Is it helpful to be saying who is at fault for bad information? Was it the Clinton administration or the Bush administration? Or was it before that? Is that what we ought to be talking about right now? I don't think so.

I think what we ought to be talking about right now is how we can come together as a country and make sure everyone in America understands the importance of this cause; that we support our Commander in Chief, and that we support our troops on the ground.

I have been to Iraq. Mr. President, you have been to Iraq. Our Commander in Chief has been to Iraq. We know a little bit about what it is like. We don't know everything because we are

not there when the bombs go off. We are not there when the missiles are launched. But we have been there, and we know our troops are the best. They are committed. They are doing exactly what needs to be done to stabilize this country.

It is not going to be easy. But the one thing we must all do is be committed to the proposition we can't fail, and dividing our country in half over who was responsible for faulty intelligence is one way we could fail.

What we need to be doing is uniting our country. This is America's challenge. This is our coalition's challenge, that we will stay the course. We will make sure a constitution is in place in Iraq so the people who have been oppressed for so many years, so the girls in Afghanistan who have been abused and uneducated will have the chance for lives all of us dream for our children to have, so the people in Iraq who were raped, tortured, and mutilated by Saddam Hussein and his regime will no longer have to fear that kind of treatment because they will be in control of their own destiny. We will be there with the security to help them see this through.

What we need right now is a united country, not a country sniping at our President, whether it is on the Senate floor or out in the field.

My time is up. But I think it is not productive for us to be divisive at this point. We need to be united in support of our Commander in Chief and our troops on the ground.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, my colleague from Texas noted we need a united country. I want to briefly respond to my colleague from New Jersey who talked about the economy before I talk about the situation in Iraq.

We had great news: 308,000 new jobs were created in March. Yet my colleagues from across the aisle say, Great news, but; they talk about all the celebration, but; and all the spinning, but. But there is no spinning about 308,000 jobs. The spinning is in the light of good news at a time which we should celebrate.

Americans are worried and concerned about their economic future and job growth and opportunity. We have good news. Why can't we simply be united? Why do we have to take the "Chicken Little" approach and say "the sky is falling, the sky is falling"? We have 308,000 new jobs, but; Pell grants have risen, but; 308,000 jobs, but. We have challenges in Social Security; 308,000 jobs, but.

The reality is not only 308,000 jobs in March, but the Labor Department went back and recalculated the job growth in January and February. What we have is 500,000 jobs over the last 3 months.

Why can't we come together for a moment and try not to create darkness out of light? Why do we have to dim the hopes of the people of this country? Confidence makes a difference. Our economy runs on confidence. We should have confidence based on the facts, and based on all the evidence that has been there for many months about manufacturing growth, investment, and about consumer spending, and now about job growth. Why do we have to spin and twist and turn and create dark clouds for political purposes? I hope we can do better.

IRAQ

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with many mixed emotions and with a firm conviction. Foremost among these emotions is a deep sympathy for the families who have lost loved ones during the recent surge of violence in Iraq. I believe there were 32 deaths of our servicemen in the last 96 hours. We lost one brave marine over the weekend who is from Minnesota. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and with others.

America will forever be in the debt of the brave men and women who volunteered. Every man and woman in uniform in Iraq and Afghanistan is a volunteer. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is with a heavy heart I reflect on that. But my prayers are with them and my thoughts are with them. My admiration is with them, and the thanks of every Minnesotan and every American is with them for their sacrifice and their courage.

I am of the Jewish faith. We just celebrated the Passover tradition, celebration and commemoration of Israel's deliverance from Egypt and from slavery almost 6,000 years ago. One of the things about that holiday is in that service we have a dinner which is a ritual dinner, and we celebrate. We thank God for deliverance. But in that service we also talk about not only ourselves; it is not enough that God delivered us from slavery, but we need to exert ourselves in the deliverance of others. I think that is more than a Jewish tradition. It is more than an American President. Our President reminded us it is a universal principle; that freedom is not America's gift to the world, but it is God's gift.

This is also a solemn time to remember the genocide in Rwanda 10 years ago when we as a Nation stood by and over 1 million people were slaughtered.

This is the anniversary of the fall of Baghdad for which the whole civilized world should rejoice. It has been a year without new mass graves being filled. A half million Iraqis were slaughtered by Saddam Hussein, by the brutal tyrant. It has been a year in which the torture chambers and the rape rooms are now silent. It has been a year when the wealth of Iraq, a nation with millions of poor people, has not been plundered to sustain the obscene decadence

of a sadistic dictator and his maniacal sons. It has been a year that kids returned to school and teachers actually got paid, hospitals reopened, and food and water restored. It has been a year in which clear intent to threaten the region and the world has been stopped.

The violence in the last several days has been grievous, but it only stands to confirm the truth of what America has been committed to for the last 3 years: the choice of this state for the uprising in terms that we were battling the remnants of a regime we went there to destroy.

The attacks in Spain a short time ago confirm our conviction that Iraq is a battle in the global war on terror. Why else would terrorists target Spain, except to undermine our coalition?

Let us never forget that terrorism at its heart, at its evil heart, is a psychological war. It endeavors to break the spirit and the resolve of those it attacks by creating a lose-lose situation. It uses deadly force. By using deadly force it creates a dilemma for its enemy. To not respond validates those attacks. To respond in kind, they believe, will create further unrest and cause for the next round of attacks. Our resolve is what they are attacking. We must show them no hint of resignation.

I must say, I felt a great sense of remorse over comments made yesterday by Members of this body who raised the specter of Vietnam. I will be direct: To raise the specter of Vietnam as 10 families learn of the deaths of young sons is regrettable. To attribute a political motive to the President's June 30 deadline to return control of Iraq is extreme. I know the target audience of these comments, but its unintended witnesses are those we fight against today in the global war on terror.

Am I the only person struck by the absurd irony of the last week's national debate? On the one hand, the President is being roundly criticized by those claiming he failed to act aggressively prior to September 11 and used only diplomatic efforts to combat terrorism. And, in almost the same breath, he is criticized for being far too aggressive after September 11 and not relying upon diplomacy enough. So he was supposed to be tougher on terror before the attack and easier afterwards? It is hypocrisy.

We have an all-sports radio station in the Twin Cities that pokes fun at itself by saying it is "the home of the best second-guessing." I don't think it can match this town of late. It is intellectually dishonest to look backwards with all the facts and judge the decisions that were made with almost none of the facts, or the facts that existed hidden in the normal cloud of endless speculation of what might happen. To compare perfect hindsight with imperfect foresight is unfair. The American people understand that.

I have heard the story about a woman who wrote many letters of advice to President Lincoln during the

Civil War, giving him direction she received in a prayer of who to attack and who to defend, which general to keep and which to fire. Lincoln replied something to the effect: Don't you find it curious that the Almighty gave you all the answers and gave me the job?

It is easy to second-guess. It is easy to criticize, particularly in a political season. But to lead is something altogether different. The leader must live in the real world of the price that might be paid for the goal that has been set. Our young men and women are on the line today defending freedom, fighting terror. We are having discussion and debate about an April 30 deadline. One can raise questions about the plan. We should discuss that. But to call it arbitrary and unilateral, knowing there is an expectation of the Iraqis that we need to turn over political power—not leave, not cut and run. We are still in Germany 50 years later, in Kosovo, in South Korea, not to cut and run—hand over, get rid of the specter of occupation, which is what the international community wants. Yet there are those today who will criticize that second-guessing because you need something to second-guess. It should not work that way.

America awakened on September 11 to a harsh reality. After a decade of talking tough, diplomatic efforts, occasionally sending a cruise missile to blow up a factory, or camp in the desert and hoping terrorism would go away, we were brutally attacked. Our good will, our love of peace, and our broad oceans did not protect us. As much as some may want to return to the illusory sense of security we had before September 11, we cannot. Giving people false hope is the antithesis of leadership.

The prior judgment of those who attacked us was that America was weak, that we were corrupt, that we were divisible. The destruction of the Taliban in Afghanistan was lesson No. 1. They were wrong. The invasion of Iraq and the fall of Baghdad was lesson No. 2. The attempt to secure peace in Iraq is lesson No. 3.

The terrorists are making up their minds what we are made of. They tested the Spanish. They tested the British. They will test the Russians, the Poles, the Italians and every other nation that has been participating in the coalition and the multilateral effort to put Iraq back on its feet. No doubt they will test us. We will meet that test. We will show resolve. We will not cut and run. Terrorism will be defeated. Freedom will prevail.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I salute my colleague from Minnesota for his strong leadership on this issue and his great insight into what is happening today in a very complex world.

As I listened to the news yesterday and today and read the newspapers this morning, we are reminded again of several things. First, we are reminded of what a difficult and complex world it is

in which we live. It is a world where we who want to be a peaceful nation and see peace throughout the world once again realize the type of peace we hope for and pray for may be a long and difficult road ahead.

We understand, also, from the standpoint of sacrifice, nothing comes easy. We are reminded once again that the freedom this Nation enjoys came at great sacrifice. We are seeing sacrifices around the world today, particularly of our brave men and women who are fighting for the freedom of the Iraqi people.

As I think about that and I think about what is going on in Iraq today and what is happening to an overwhelming majority of the Iraqi people who want to see peace and who want stability in that country and they are having to deal with a small number of insurgents who want to carry the day by using guns and violence, it disturbs me when I hear statements made by politicians in America, politicians who aspire to higher office, as well as politicians who have been in the realm of politics in our country for many years, statements that tend to incite the opposition and to put our men and women in greater harm's way.

When I was coming along as a young man, I played a lot of athletics. I have had the privilege of coaching Little League basketball and baseball for 25 years. When you play athletics or when you coach athletics, you want to be inspired as an athlete and as a coach. You want to inspire the opposition. Frankly, the statements I have seen in the last 24 hours relative to the comparison of Iraq to Vietnam are the type of statements a coach would take and plaster on the locker room wall when he wants to charge up his team and he tells the opponents, Look what is happening on the other side. Morale is decaying. We are winning.

That is simply the type of statement that is foolish and should never be made by anyone in the political realm in our country in a time of great crisis and great confrontation over the issue of freedom and democracy.

America has long been the leader of the free world. But we did not get there in an easy way. Likewise, Iraq is not going to get there in an easy way. No one ever said it would be easy making a democracy out of a country the size of California, that has no democratic traditions, is divided sometimes by religious and ethnic disputes, and has a history of internal repression.

When I think about our great country and the fact that a little over 225 years ago we declared our independence, what happened in our country when the citizens of America became free, it was not easy. We had great loss of life in order to ensure that America became free and independent. When we look at what has happened in America over the course of that 225-plus years, we have suffered great loss of life of brave men and women who fought for a cause, a cause of freedom and a cause

of democracy, the simple cause of freedom that is being fought for in Iraq today.

America is providing the kind of leadership the world respects and the world has come to understand; that it is what America stands for. When Americans provide that kind of leadership, it is incumbent on all Americans to rally around the leadership of this country in times of great crisis in the world, when we are the leader of the free world, and not to try to incite the other side, not try to create a more difficult position for our brave men and women in the military, who today continue to be in harm's way and continue to suffer loss of life.

Speaking of that, I concur with my friend from Minnesota, our hearts go out to the families of those brave men and women—all 600-plus—who have suffered loss of life in Iraq as a result of their fight for the cause of freedom. In addition to that, we have a number of men and women who have been injured; and, again, it is for the right reason.

I had a great privilege about 2 weeks ago of visiting a number of military bases in my State. One of the bases I visited was Fort Gordon, GA. At Fort Gordon, right outside of Augusta, we had a tour of the base, the usual things that we do to see what is going on with respect to the missions at Fort Gordon. At the end of the day, I had the opportunity to participate in a very unique ceremony. It was a reenlistment ceremony, where 17 men and women were reenlisting in the U.S. Army.

Some of these men and women had been longtime members of the Armed Forces; some had only been in for a couple of years, but they were re-upping. Some of them had been to Iraq. Some of them had seen their fellow soldiers fallen to the ground injured or killed. Yet here they were raising their right hand and reenlisting in the U.S. Army.

I had the opportunity to visit with every single one of them, and for the most part, I asked the same question to each of them; and that is, Why are you doing this? Why are you reenlisting in the Army in these difficult times? I felt so great, No. 1, just to be in the presence of those true American heroes; but secondly, the response I got, in unison, from those individuals was that: I like my job. I enjoy what I am doing, and it is my opportunity to do something positive for America.

The ones who had been in Iraq had a very high morale about what is going on over there because they are the ones who were on the ground every day in Iraq. They know the feeling of the majority—the overwhelming majority—of the Iraqi people. They support the freedom and democracy that America is making the sacrifices for.

Some say this administration underestimated just how difficult and complex the job in Iraq would be. I will be honest, I have come to share that view. I think the administration would agree with that. But I believe, therefore, we

need to learn from our tactical mistakes, and to ensure that our posture in Iraq is flexible and can adapt to fluid and developing circumstances. If this means finding new ways to ensure Shiite grievances are heard, so be it, as the cooperation of the Shiite majority in the transition ahead is essential to that transition success. But the CPA must also respond aggressively to aggression of any kind that is directed against our troops.

In talking about what we anticipated or what the administration expected in Iraq, let's talk also about some of the things we did not expect. We did not expect for clerics in that part of the world to come forward, and instead of preaching religion that you would expect them to be preaching, to be preaching and advocating hatred and violence towards Americans—Americans, who had given them the opportunity to stand in that mosque and express the words they were expressing, because without the Americans taking down Saddam Hussein, they would not have that freedom, they would not have the ability to carry out their disruptions and the violence that is ongoing over there today.

But removed from that, and behind the cloud of those robes of religion, clerics are hiding, and they are also hiding behind innocent women and children and shielding themselves by use of innocent people from the Americans who seek to arrest and prosecute them for the crimes they have carried out. Those are the types of things that no administration could anticipate and no administration should have expected when we freed the people of Iraq from the regime of Saddam Hussein.

There is one other aspect of the situation in Iraq that is just as personally, if not more personally, troubling to me; and that is the issue relative to our lack of intelligence gathering, the lack of the ability to use human assets on the ground inside of Iraq, to make sure we find out what is going on among these radical clerics who are advocating violence; what is going on with respect to the terrorist community and the terrorists themselves relative to attacks against Americans; what is going on with respect to the long-term plans of these terrorists as it applies to the American service people, as well as civilians who are on the ground in Iraq.

We are not doing the job of gathering intelligence that we need to be doing. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I assure you, we are doing our oversight. We are going to be critical where we need to be critical because this is a phase of this war that must improve. We are going to do our job and make it improve so the people of Iraq will ultimately be free, the world will be safer, and America will be a safer country.

I yield back, Mr. President.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PREGNANCY AND TRAUMA CARE ACCESS PROTECTION ACT OF 2004—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2207, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the bill (S. 2207) to improve women's access to health care services, and the access of all individuals to emergency and trauma care services, by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of such services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the next 2 hours shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we now return to the issue of how we make health care more affordable and accessible to the American people. This bill will try to reduce the liability, the insurance costs of doctors who deliver babies and doctors who work in emergency rooms, making the practice of those different disciplines more attractive to doctors and allowing, therefore, especially women who are having children more access to doctors. Especially in rural areas this is a huge problem because so many OB doctors have had to give up the practice of medicine because of the cost of their liability insurance. We return to that bill.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 633

But before we go on to that bill, I think it is important that we address other legislation that could also significantly reduce the cost of health care in this country and improve its delivery. One such piece of legislation has been reported out of the committee which I have the privilege to chair, which is the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. It was reported out unanimously—unanimously. It is the patient safety bill, and it basically is structured so that it does, for example, make information as to how errors occur within the medical profession more available within the medical profession so people in the medical profession can learn from these errors.

Today, regrettably, if you have an experience of doing a procedure inappropriately, having a medication which is inappropriately applied, or having an operating room that may not be set up correctly, and as a result errors result from that type of activity which lead to injury or problems for patients, that information is kept very close. It is not made available generally to the medical profession for the obvious reason that they will be sued.

What this bill does is essentially try to create a better atmosphere for allowing that information to be shared