

First, we need to go on the moral offensive whenever hatred arises. That is why I have risen on the floor several times to decry the growth of antisemitism in Europe. Even on American college campuses, antisemitism is raising its ugly head today. We need to speak out. We need to put a cork in the bottle. We need to make sure it does not spread.

Second, I think we need to understand that with American power comes responsibility. In concert with our allies in the U.N., we must be prepared to intervene when we can to prevent bad situations from going over the abyss into genocide. Diplomacy is by its nature slow and cautious while situations such as these are fast moving and can degenerate overnight. We need to find ways to respond quickly. The history of the quick action of the British in 1941 to stop the Farhud, a genocidal program against Iraqi Jews, is an event deserving more attention and more study.

There is one other reason for us to focus on these monstrously evil events. They provide stirring examples of the nobility and resiliency of human beings as well: The story of "Schindler's List", the compassionate soldiers who liberated the concentration camps. Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz on January 27, 1945, and were able to save about 7,000 prisoners from certain death. The stories of surviving prisoners themselves are remarkable. Those who managed to maintain their humanity in the most inhumane of circumstances inspired us all.

Victor Frankl offered this recollection:

We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.

Frankl also wrote:

A thought transfixed me: for the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final truth by so many thinkers. The truth that love is the ultimate and highest goal to which man can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: The salvation of man is through love and in love.

The Holocaust and similar events discourage us with the realization of the extent of evil of which people are capable, and we must guard against it vigilantly. But they also display the highest and best human beings can rise to, which gives us courage and hope.

We will never, ever forget man's inhumanity to man in the Holocaust. We reflect on the liberation of Auschwitz, so we assure that we never forget. But at the same time we have a sense of courage and hope that in the worst of circumstances man can still turn to love and to faith and to salvation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, how much time do we have on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 11 minutes 50 seconds remaining.

#### NOMINATION OF CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, as most of today's program will be based on Condoleezza Rice and her appointment to be Secretary of State, I rise to make some comments to show my admiration for Ms. Rice and my support for her to serve in this task. I certainly cannot think of a better candidate. I rise to offer my strong support for Dr. Rice because I believe she not only brings a remarkable record of public service and academic credentials to this position, but also great experience and integrity in troubled times, times of war.

I find it troublesome that we are here today, unfortunately, not so much to debate the qualifications of Dr. Rice, even though they are certainly impressive and she is equal to the task. Instead, to some extent we have chosen to return, at this time, to the honored position of trying to score political points by distorting the record of the President's decision to use force in Iraq. The ongoing operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan are critical components to the global war on terrorism, a war with the purpose of fundamentally changing the environment which has given rise to the power of the extremists in that part of the world. It remains an aggressive effort, not only to bring to justice the perpetrators of 9/11 but also the nations that aid and support them.

There has been a great deal of discussion, of course, with Dr. Rice about the facts that brought us into Iraq. The fact is, at that time everyone involved—whether it was the United States, whether it was Britain, whether it was the CIA—had this view of what the world was and that is what it was based on. Some of those views turned out not to be correct, but at the time that was the information we had.

So I certainly hope we can move forward here. I agree, everyone should have a right to say what they choose with regard to these nominations. On the other hand, they ought to be here for the purpose of examining those persons for that task, and not talking about the politics of all the surrounding issues.

I also have to say I am not at all surprised that someone nominated to serving on the Cabinet would be supportive of the President. If you were President, would you appoint people who disagreed with you and would not be with you, who would not support your positions? Of course not. So that is where we are.

At any rate, I support the decision to use force, supporting the action in Iraq today. We have to finish our work

there. I think we are offering freedom and hope to the people of these poor and oppressed countries. The best way is to neutralize the effect of fanatical Islam. We continue to make progress with other nations, and that is great.

Dr. Rice has performed admirably in her role as National Security Adviser and will continue to serve the country well as Secretary of State. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this nomination today and move it on down the line.

#### ISSUES FACING THE SENATE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I also wish to take a few minutes, as others have, to talk about some of the issues that will be before us. We have a great opportunity now to move forward on these issues, many of which we have discussed in the last session. Many are ready to be acted upon, and I hope we can do that.

We need to talk about taxes and simplifying taxes. We need to talk about ensuring that we have the tax support there to create jobs and strengthen the economy. We seem to be moving in the right direction. I think the tax reductions have proven themselves to be useful, but many of them, particularly on taxes such as the estate tax, unless that is made permanent so people can have confidence in their investments, they really do not fully do what we hoped they would do.

We need to continue to work to keep America safe; security is probably our top priority. We have made a considerable amount of change in that area. We need to continue to evaluate that, of course, and ensure that we have the best.

I hope we can come back to deal with the issue of energy—clean, economic energy. That is, again, one of the basic issues in creating jobs, in growing an economy, and one that we have worked on now for several years.

We had a long meeting yesterday. We had a series of meetings to talk about the need for conservation, to talk about the need for efficiency. We talked about the need for alternative sources of energy—renewable energy as well as domestic production. Those things are so important. Yet, somehow, we have not been able to move forward. I cannot think of anything that is more important to us than to have a policy with respect to the future, to be able to look into the future with regard to energy.

I suspect most of my friends here would agree that as they go home and meet with people, one of the issues that is most often talked about is the cost of health care. It is a tough issue. I think we have a good health care system, probably the best in the world, but we are getting to the point where access to that system is being limited by the cost. I am not just talking about Medicare or Medicaid; I am talking about health care generally. I am talking about families on the ranch,

talking about families on the ranch, for example, when they have to pay for their own and it costs \$15,000 a year for insurance. I am talking about the things we might do to give more tax-free savings accounts so these insurance policies can be more for coverage of catastrophic events and be less expensive and we can have more ownership in them. Those are the kinds of things we need to take a look at.

We need to promote agriculture in our trade programs that will be coming up. Agriculture is a very difficult issue with respect to foreign trade, but it is very important.

I spent some time in Argentina at the global warming meeting and I got some insight as to what is happening in Brazil and Argentina in terms of livestock production, and it is going to be enormous. We have to be prepared.

Obviously, we will be talking about changes in Social Security. We will be meeting with the President today, with the Finance Committee, to get better ideas of what the details are, but clearly we need to do something there.

The highway bill—we have gone several years without the highway bill we passed some time ago. Can you think of anything more important in our communities than to maintain and develop new highways and keep them up? We have not done that, and we need to do it.

Tort reform—whether it is broad, whether it is class action suits, whether it is malpractice in health care—these are issues we need to accomplish. We talk about them, we argue about them, and then we walk away from them. It seems to me there are a number of those issues where we ought to just buckle down and come to the snugging post and do some things that need to be done.

Spending? I don't think any of us deny that we need to do something about spending. We need to do something about the deficit that we have created—that we have created. We need to do some things there.

I think we have some real opportunities to do some more than we have in the past. We have a chance to move forward.

Class action is apparently going to be out here soon. Clearly, there are some changes that need to be made. The whole tort reform area is difficult. Nevertheless, we ought to be able to do that.

Those are the things I hope we can take a long look at. I know we all have some different ideas about what the priorities ought to be. But it is pretty clear some of these things need to be handled. There are different views about how they need to be handled, but something needs to be done about them, and it is our responsibility to do that. We can fuss and have disagreements and walk off the floor and all that sort of thing, but the fact is, it is our responsibility to do things. It is our opportunity to do them now. I look forward to a productive session. I hope we can get started very soon.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

#### NOMINATION OF CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise according to the order to speak as in morning business, but I will be addressing my remarks to the nomination of Dr. Rice to be Secretary of State.

First, in supporting Dr. Rice's nomination, I wish to set this in context. President Bush was reelected last November. He took the oath of office last Thursday and swore to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution and the laws give him the authority to nominate people who he wants to take leadership positions in his administration.

We, now, have our constitutional responsibility in the Senate of the United States to advise and consent. But I have always believed that our responsibility to advise and consent does not mean we have to agree with every opinion or every action the nominee has ever taken, but that nominee deserves the benefit of the doubt and our responsibility is to determine whether the nominee is fit for the position for which the President has nominated him or her, and whether the nominee, in our judgment, will serve in the national interest. Of course, I conclude that Dr. Condoleezza Rice met that standard at least and much more.

Second, this element of the context in which this nomination is put before us. We are at war. It is a war unlike any we have ever fought before. Here I speak of the world war with Islamic terrorism. It is joined on battlefields in places like Iraq, of course, but it is being fought in the shadows and corners against an enemy that is driven by fanaticism and acts without regard to human life—others or their own.

I embrace the best tradition of American foreign policy that says and always has said that partisanship should end at the Nation's shores. Note this: It doesn't say policy differences should end; it doesn't say ideological differences should end; it says partisanship should end at the Nation's shores, particularly so when our Nation is engaged in war, a global war on terrorism, a war in Iraq in which Americans have lost their lives in the cause of freedom and in protection of our security.

What I wish to say here is that the nomination of Secretary of State in a second term of a President naturally is an opportunity, appropriately, for people to raise questions about the foreign policy of that administration. But in the final analysis, I hope it is also an opportunity around this very qualified nominee for us to come together and say to one another and to the world, both our enemy and our allies, that in the final analysis Americans will stand shoulder to shoulder against terrorism,

against the enemy in pursuit of the freedom and liberty and opportunity that Dr. Rice spoke about in her opening statement before the Foreign Relations Committee and that President Bush spoke about in his inaugural address last week.

One of the great strengths which Condoleezza Rice will bring to the office of Secretary of State is that the world knows she has the President's trust and confidence. I respect the right of any of my colleagues, of course, to reach a different decision today and to oppose this nomination, but I hope and believe that the Senate today across partisan lines will resoundingly endorse this nomination and send the message to friend and foe alike that while we have our disagreements, ultimately what unites us around this very qualified nominee in this hour of war is much greater than that which divides us. In times like these, it is important that the world not only know that this Secretary of State has the ear of the President, but that she has, if you will allow me to put it this way, America's heart—a heart that beats with the freedom and security and opportunity that we dream of for our own people and for the people of the world.

In the world today, we face a time of grave peril but also great promise. It is in many ways, it seems to me, like the time our predecessors faced after the Second World War at the outbreak of the Cold War. As then, now it is a hostile ideology which threatens freedom around the world as terrorism has replaced communism as liberty's foremost foe. Now, as then, it is the United States that must show leadership and resolve as the world's strongest nation in the face of this danger from terrorism to life and liberty—not just ourselves but everyone who does not exactly agree with the terrorists. Now, as then, the President and Members of Congress must depend on the advice and counsel of the Secretary of State as we craft the policies with an unblinking resolve that will rally our friends and rattle our enemies, that will diminish—we pray, eliminate—the perils we face and realize the extraordinary promises of our time.

The very first Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, once wrote:

We confide in our strength without boasting of it. We respect that of others without fearing it.

Jefferson's 18th century insights will serve us well in the face of the 21st century threats we confront. I know Dr. Rice understands and appreciates that well.

Economic development and trade and foreign direction investment and the spread of modern technology and telecommunications have raised the standard of living throughout the world and connected people of the world as never before. But too many nations and people have been left behind because of failed governments or failed economies. They have become breeding