

Specifically, on this bill, the DOD authorization bill, which we will turn to at 3 o'clock, we will insist on amendments that respond aggressively and practically to the ongoing terrorist threat both here and abroad.

It is important to remember whom we are fighting. General Petraeus has said that 80 percent to 90 percent of the suicide bombers in Iraq are from outside the country, outside of Iraq. We are fighting al-Qaeda, other terror groups, and the states that support them.

We cannot allow these terrorists to gain a new sanctuary even closer to the United States than Afghanistan or to gain access to other ungoverned areas in the Middle East that will give them a new stage to carry out their attacks.

It has always been in the U.S. interest, and it remains in the U.S. interest, to maintain stability in the Persian Gulf. It is important not to forget that either. We need to guard against an emboldened Iran, which is facilitating and capitalizing on the weakness of Iraq for its own advantage on the world stage. We must reassure our allies in Iraq, the Middle East, and the world that America remains committed to fighting terrorism wherever it is found.

Finally, as we proceed, we must remember we are at war and that our enemies will use any means at their disposal to harm us. They intend to strike us at home and abroad. They will exploit any opening we give them, and they will use every tool at their disposal.

Everyone in this Chamber has America's best interests at heart. But it will fall on Republicans in this debate to be particularly awake to the complexity of the terrorist threat.

Now, it is no accident we have not been attacked at home in nearly 6 years. We have kept terrorists at arm's length by bringing the fight to them. Republican amendments will build on the lessons we have learned over the past 6 years. They will reflect our commitment to security and continued vigilance, and we will insist they be heard. Republicans will succeed in improving this bill in ways that improve our war-fighting ability and our counterterrorism tools.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate not only the comments of my distinguished counterpart, the senior Senator from Kentucky, but the manner in which they were offered, the tone. I would hope we can work together to get some of these things done, starting with this bill, the Defense authorization bill.

We have two wonderful Senators who are the managers of that bill, Senators LEVIN and WARNER. They have worked together in that committee for 25 years and are both dedicated patriots. They will do a good job managing this bill, no matter what happens on the floor.

I would also say that, coincidentally, I had a meeting today with the president of the American Medical Association. He came to talk about the SCHIP bill and how important it is we get that passed.

Also, in speaking with physicians about the Clinton health care plan that we did spend a lot of time on, as everyone knows, that legislation started out with 80 percent of the American people supporting a change in the health care policy in this country. With the huge amounts of money spent by mainly the insurance industry, with their "Harry and Louise" ads, that reversed, when it was all over, with less than half the people supporting that legislation. Huge amounts of money were spent denigrating that legislation.

Right now, as with the people who met with me today, they sure wish that legislation passed. It would have solved a lot of the problems we deal with here: medical malpractice and allowing the pooling of small employers so they can compete with large employers and have affordable insurance. But hindsight is 20/20. That was not accomplished. Hopefully, we can, with SCHIP, set a tone for what we can do with legislation as it relates to health care.

With the 9/11 and the ethics and lobbying reform, the proof is in the pudding. Are we going to have more delays? As my distinguished friend has indicated, if Republican staff comes to our staff and says: We are ready to go to conference, we will go, just like that. But I am not going to come out here anymore and have somebody come out and sideswipe it: We cannot do it because of this or that, always something standing in the way of it.

The American people are watching us. We are going to finish those two pieces of legislation before we leave in August. It is not a threat. It is what we have to do. The American people need us to do certain things. Can't we certainly pass ethics and lobbying reform? Can't we certainly pass the 9/11 Commission recommendations, which are 3 years old? The administration has not implemented those. In fact, as we know, we talk about one reason it passed overwhelmingly here and in the House is the Bush administration is given Ds and Fs on the implementation of this. We need to get this passed, and we need to get ethics reform passed. We need to get the 9/11 bill passed. I hope we can do that.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am happy to yield.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I do not know if the majority leader was preoccupied or not, but let me say again, we were prepared to go to conference on the 9/11 bill the Friday before the recess, and the request was not made by my good friend, which is fine. I would say, again, we are prepared to go to conference on the 9/11 bill. I would suggest we have our floor staffs

work out the language. I do not think there is any reason why we could not do that today.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am happy. I am happy. I so appreciate that, very much appreciate that. I think it is good we try to have a good work environment the next few weeks. We have a lot of things to do. We have been through one of the most difficult issues that has ever faced this body, ever, in the 200-plus years we have been a country; that is, immigration reform. Friends against friends, it was a very difficult issue.

So I think it is time we are able to do what the Senate can do by unanimous consent. So I appreciate very much what my friend said. I look forward to that. I think it will be something the American people can look at and say: You know, those guys don't disagree on everything.

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 of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT OF 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1 and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration; that all after the enacting clause be stricken, and the text of S. 4, as passed the Senate on March 13, 2007, be inserted in lieu thereof; that the bill be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table; that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

I further ask unanimous consent that it not be in order to consider the conference report if it contains collective

bargaining provisions which I have committed to drop, as has the Speaker.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, finally, again, I want the record spread with how much I appreciate this. I know the families of 9/11 appreciate Democrats and Republicans coming together and agreeing to complete this legislation, which we will complete very quickly.

The bill (H.R. 1), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

WAR ON TERROR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, most of the activity with regard to the terrorist plot in Great Britain occurred while we were on our breaks back home. I wanted to briefly discuss that today.

It seems to me that the terror plots in Great Britain must serve as a wake-up call to those of us in the United States who perhaps have been too complacent about the terrorist threat. These plots remind us of the dangers we really face each and every day, and we need to employ all possible intelligence and follow-up action in order to stop the attacks and roll back these terrorist groups.

The war against terrorists and on the radical ideologies that drive terrorism will go on and is going to go on for a long time, and attacks will not occur every day. So we have to remain resolute in the face of this long-term threat, never allowing temporary respites from violence to tempt us into thinking the terrorists have stopped recruiting and plotting.

Abroad we must confront the challenges not just of terrorist networks but of states like Iran and Syria that provide funds and equipment for the terrorists. At home we have to have adequate intelligence to find, monitor, and disrupt terrorist cells that could strike at any time. It requires vigilance and cooperation among many enforcement entities and, importantly, the support of the American people. Against this threat, to say “out of sight, out of mind” can have no place.

Now, the first point I would like to make today is that as the plot in Great Britain revealed, this is not about grievances. This is about ideology.

There are those at home who are members of what is called the Blame America First crowd, which was a term coined by my friend, the late Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, who say the Islamists hate us because of what we do. They allegedly hate us because we don't do enough to fight poverty, because of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, because of Iraq, or because of the latest Danish cartoon, or whatever. Of course, this is nonsense.

The radical ideology that spawns this terrorism has nothing to do with such grievances or poverty. The perpetra-

tors of the plots in Great Britain were doctors, not individuals radicalized by unemployment or poverty-stricken slums. These plots certainly were not the result of British policy. They unfolded on the very day that Gordon Brown, a critic of Britain's roles in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, took office. Nor did they have anything to do with American policy. From what we know of the individuals involved, it appears the motivation was the same as all of the other acts of terrorism in the name of militant Islam.

This radical doctrine had its roots in the early 20th century and gained momentum through the writings of radical Islamists such as Sayyid Qutb in the 1950s and 1960s, long before the Iraq war. It has everything to do with the hatred of our values, our freedoms, all that we stand for, and we see the hatred in attacks that go back several decades.

Review them: The 1979 takeover of our Embassy in Tehran; the 1983 Hezbollah bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut; the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center; the 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers; the 1998 Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania; the 2000 attack on the USS *Cole*; September 11, 2001, and all of the attacks since then, including Beslan, Madrid, London, and elsewhere. In every case, the rationale was the same—advancement of the radical ideology of militant Islam; a perversion of the faith, to be sure, but based on their concept of the faith nonetheless.

The sheer evil of the acts and the perpetrators shocks our souls, especially because it is allegedly grounded in religion. People trained as doctors—those who are supposed to value and preserve life—were at the center of the plot in Great Britain to destroy innocent life.

We in the West, who believe in reason and rationality, have trouble comprehending the mentality of radical Islam and those who subscribe to it. But we need to understand it, to call it what it is, and not too shrink from this honesty because the terrorists and their sympathizers hide behind a great religion. Importantly, we must not seek to rationalize and explain the views and the behavior of our enemies through our values and experiences. Militant Islam seeks not to change our policies but to destroy our very way of life and replace it with a Taliban-like society ruled by Sharia law and its enforcers. Militant Islam has declared war on the West—be very clear about it. It is fundamentally at odds with freedom, with democracy, with the inherent humanity of the individual, with critical thinking, and rational decisionmaking, not to mention all other religious beliefs.

While it might be fueled by grievances, it is not caused by the West but, rather, by the very backwardness and ideological rigidity that they would impose on others.

The second point is this: We should be clear that militant Islam, though

bound together by common ideology, comes in various stripes, including al-Qaida, responsible for 9/11 and which may have inspired the recent terror plots in Great Britain; Iran's radical regime, whose leader promises to “wipe Israel off the map” and envisions a “world without America,” and which is speeding toward the development of nuclear weapons; the Wahabbism of Saudi Arabia, which is funding radical ideology in mosques and madrassas all over the world, including here at home; groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, which cloaks its radical ideology in a new veneer of tolerance while its activities support terrorist groups like Hamas and many others.

But state-sponsored testing of the United States and the West is also in full force. Iran is testing our resolve in Iraq where it is using its Revolutionary Guard and its terrorist client, Hezbollah, to train and arm those who are fighting our soldiers. Iran is testing the resolve of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan where it is providing support to al-Qaida. Syria is testing our resolve in Lebanon, where it is assassinating anti-Syrian officeholders while serving as a conduit for the weapons that are rearming Hezbollah. Hamas is testing our resolve in Gaza where it launched a successful coup against the Palestinian Authority of Mahmoud Abbas.

Third, successful American response depends on resolve and support of the American people. We must understand the nature of our enemy and its ideology, confronting them head-on, with full confidence in the rightness of our cause. This is not a matter of moral relativism. We must not allow ourselves to be gagged by faux political correctness. We can say that these terrorists were bound together and motivated by a hateful ideology grounded in their interpretation of Islam without condemning any other Muslims. We must not embrace groups who tell us they stand for peace without renouncing violence in the name of Islam. We must not reward evil with retreat from any of the battlefields where the fight is raging, including Iraq and Afghanistan. And we must be willing to support intelligence and enforcement activities, including incarcerating those who have plotted against or attacked us.

As we celebrate the success of protecting our homeland since 9/11 and preventing loss of life from the attempted attacks in Great Britain, let our words and actions prove that we have not forgotten the resolve that we displayed six years ago today, and let us not fall into the temptation of blaming ourselves for the actions of those who, inspired by hatred, have declared war on us. It is not grievances which have spawned this hatred and these attacks but, rather, the hateful ideology of militant Islam.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed at this point in the record a New York Post op-ed by Irshad Manji, dated July 9, 2007.