

We do encourage our members—I know Senator LUGAR, our ranking member on Foreign Relations, is here and Senator KYL, who has been deeply involved in this issue. We would encourage them to begin the debate on the treaty.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, reserving the right to—

Mr. REID. Mr. President, also, if I could respond to my friend, I know Senator LUGAR has spent lots of time on this treaty, as has Senator KYL, as has Senator KERRY and others. Everyone, we will be very generous with time. If Senator LUGAR, who is one of the wizards of foreign policy in the history of our country, needs more time, no one is going to stand in the way of that. So everyone should understand that we did put a 15-minute limitation on it, but there will be consents granted for people to speak longer if, in fact, it is necessary.

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

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the leader with respect to that question. I wonder if the order might predicate at the outset that Senator LUGAR—he has asked me for 40 minutes as an opening. I know Senator KYL would probably want to be able to speak an equal amount of time. I would like to, obviously, make an opening, appropriately a little longer. So if we could perhaps make the order 40 minutes to Senator LUGAR, 40 minutes to Senator KYL. I would like a half hour. And we have some other Senators from there. And we could vary this as we go. Is that possible?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. So the consent request is that Senator LUGAR be recognized for 40 minutes, Senator KYL for 40 minutes, Senator KERRY for 30 minutes; is that right?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am not sure I will be speaking for 40 minutes or any particular timeframe here. I want to focus for the moment on the omnibus and a continuing resolution, so my remarks probably would be relevant to that, and therefore I probably should not join in the unanimous consent request at this time.

Mr. REID. OK. So, Mr. President, I am glad we clarified that. But, as I said, anyone can talk about anything they want. So why don't we have the consent request amended that Senator LUGAR be recognized for 40 minutes, Senator KERRY for 30 minutes, and then the rest of the time will be jump ball for people to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. And I conferred with Senator McConnell. There will be no roll-call votes the rest of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order.

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I hope there is not too much order because it will make me feel a little bit out of place.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate is not in order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will please come to order. Take conversations off the floor.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Thank you, Mr. President. As I said, I hope there is not too much order. I do not want this place to change too much.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I am glad to be here with my colleagues to express my gratitude for the incredible, blessed life's journey I have experienced thus far and the wonderful contributions this place has made to that. I have been enormously blessed by the people of Arkansas to have represented them in the U.S. Congress, first as a Member of the House of Representatives and finally now as a U.S. Senator. Today, I rise as the daughter of two amazing parents, Martha and the late Jordan Lambert, the proud daughter of a seventh-generation Arkansas family, dirt farmers—not to be confused, we didn't farm dirt, but we were hard-working farmers who were not afraid to get dirty, to get our hands into the Earth and to do what it was we have done for generations in Arkansas. I am also the proud wife of Dr. Steve Lincoln and the very proud mother of two incredible young men, Reece and Bennett—great boys. You all have watched them grow up. It is the many unique life experiences each of us brings to this place and to this job that really and truly contribute to the mark we leave on this institution.

When I came to the Senate, my boys were 2 and we were about to celebrate their third birthday. We didn't have any friends up here, so I looked around the Senate to see who had children, who could bring their kids to our birthday party, and there were a few. We kind of had to rent out some kids to come to the Moonbounce to have a great party and it was fun. I realized how important that experience was for me to bring to this body, to share with people. PATTY MURRAY knows—she has been there—MARY LANDRIEU, AMY KLOBUCHAR, and so many others who have had their children here in the Senate. What a difference that makes in your perspective on what you are doing here. It makes a big difference.

Birthdays were a big deal when we first got here. In my household, you are allowed to celebrate your birthday for an entire week, and it is always a great time. My first birthday I celebrated in the Senate was unusual. We had just moved. My husband had moved his practice. The boys were here. They had just turned 3. It was hectic. It was a new Congress. We had all just come through an impeachment

trial. There were many things going on. When my birthday came around, it kind of came and went. My husband noticed that. So we had gone to a spouse dinner shortly after my first birthday in the Senate. My good friend, JOE BIDEN, who was my seatmate before he left to become Vice President, and his wife Jill had reached out to us to make us feel comfortable. We were young parents. We had small children. We were both working very hard.

The first spouse dinner we went to, we were sitting with Joe and Jill, and Jill produced a lovely birthday gift. It was a monogrammed box, obviously something that was thought about. It wasn't something she picked up and regifted from her closet at home. It meant so much to my husband and to me, that we were a part of a family who realized what we were going through—not just what they were going through but what we were going through. I looked at Jill and told her: You couldn't have done anything to make me or my husband more happy than to think of something that was important in our lives, and they did that. I have been a part of this family, and it has been a great time.

As I glance back on my time here, I do so with great pride, knowing that each of my votes and actions were taken with the best interests of the people of Arkansas in mind. I have always attempted to conduct myself in a manner that would make Arkansans proud, and my tears today I hope are not going to affect that. Living by my mother's rule as we did growing up, if it was rude or dangerous, it was not allowed, and I hope I have definitely met that rule because Mother sent us off with it.

As a farmer's daughter, I am honored to have helped craft three farm bills that were crucial to the economy of Arkansas. I was able to persuade my colleagues to understand the regional differences in production agriculture in our country but, most of all, I am proud I was able to impress upon my colleagues and others, hopefully, across this great Nation of ours the enormous blessing our Nation receives from farm and ranch families, what they bestow upon us, what they allow us and all the rest of the world to do each and every day; that is, to eat, to sustain ourselves, and to be able to grow.

I am particularly honored to have become the first woman and the first Arkansan to serve as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. It has been a wonderful year I have had, and I will always be proud of what we have accomplished in that committee this year and certainly in years past.

We passed historic child nutrition legislation. As a result, each meal served in schools will meet nutritional standards our children and future generations deserve, putting them on a path to wellness instead of obesity. As a result, we will see an increase in the reimbursement rate for schools for the

first time since 1973—since I was in junior high, younger than my own children today—and we did so by not adding one penny to the national debt as well as doing it in a bipartisan way.

We produced historic Wall Street reform legislation. When I became chairman of the committee, our economy was on the brink of collapse. Our legislation targeted the least transparent parts of the financial system and will bring them not only within the plain view of regulators but also in the view of hardworking Americans who want to know what is going on in our economy and in the marketplace.

Throughout my time in the Senate, I have fought hard on behalf of rural communities and families. In the House, sitting next to ED MARKEY on the Energy and Commerce Committee, he always called me BLANCHE “Rural” LAMBERT. He said: BLANCHE, every time your mouth opens, it says rural. I said: That is where I grew up, that is whom I represent, and you will always hear me speaking on behalf of the families in rural America.

I wrote the legislation establishing the Delta Regional Authority, the only Federal agency designed to channel resources, aid, and technical assistance for economic development in the rural and impoverished Mississippi Delta region.

I fought for tax relief for hardworking low- and middle-income Arkansas families, and I am most proud of the refundable child tax credit I worked on with Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE. I have also fought for the certainty for farmers and ranchers and small businesses in Arkansas with fair estate tax reforms with Senator JON KYL.

I am proud of my work on behalf of Arkansas and our Nation’s seniors, including my work on the prescription drug program for seniors, working with Senator BAUCUS and others on the Finance Committee; the Elder Justice Act that is now law, the first Federal law ever enacted to address elder abuse in a comprehensive manner. I was honored to be joined in that effort by Senators ORRIN HATCH and HERB KOHL and the hard work we put toward that.

Growing up in a family of infantrymen, I am proud to have fought for Arkansas servicemembers, veterans, and their families, specifically fighting for funding increases for the VA and the creation of the VA’s Office of Rural Health, as well as better access to quality mental health care for all our veterans.

I came to Congress to fight on behalf of our Nation’s children, families, veterans, small businesses, and farmers, and I am honored and humbled that in each of these areas, I was able to achieve legislative success on their behalf.

But as my mother would say, straighten up and pay attention to what this is about. This speech is not about yesterday, and it is not about today. What I would like for people to

remember about this speech is that it was about our Nation’s future and what we can achieve together. We have great work to do, great work. I may be leaving this body, but that doesn’t mean I give up on my country. You all have much work to do.

Colleagues, we have approached a fork in the road. This is not the first, nor do I suspect it will be the last, but we have within ourselves the ability in this Nation to choose a positive and uplifting path. HARRY REID teases me all the time: Do you smile at everything? You know what. There is a lot to smile about. We have great opportunities ahead of us in this country, but they are not going to happen by themselves. We have the opportunity to choose a path that respects differences of opinion. We have the opportunity to choose a path that sets aside short-term political gains, a path that maintains this body’s historic rules that protect the views of the minority but also puts results ahead of obstruction.

Again, I grew up in a family of four kids, and I am the youngest. You all wonder why I am so tough. I have been beat up on all my life. But my dad always said: It is results that count. It is what you finish and what you accomplish. It is not these little battles we fight; it is the war we are going to win, and it is not a war we are going to win without the Republicans or without the administration or without our constituents. It is a war on behalf of our Nation, and it has to be done together.

Many of my colleagues have had the wonderful opportunity of meeting my husband. My husband doesn’t like crowds a lot. I love crowds because I love being together. I love being a part of things. I love being a part of a team. My team is here, my Lincoln team. It is a great team. They have been a wonderful group to work with. You are a part of my team. You are my family in the Senate. Being together and working together is an incredible blessing, and we have to make sure we realize that.

Our country is certainly at its best when we are collectively working together for a goal. All you have to do is listen to your parents or your grandparents talk about victory gardens or rationing nylons or anything else that happened during the war when people were working collectively together.

Our country is facing many challenges. There is no doubt the American people are frustrated. They are frustrated with our lack of productivity, and they are so anxious to be a part of the solution that needs to happen here—the coming together, the finding of solutions to the problems we face and the results we need to have. I am confident that, together, we can overcome all these differences and continue to be the leader of the rest of the world as we have been and should be. I leave this body with confidence that we can provide our citizens with the type of government they deserve: a government that provides results and cer-

tainty about the future they so longingly want to be a part of and that they want to protect for their children, rather than obstruction and sound bites and confusion.

With teenage children at home, it is a true blessing that we live in a day and in an age where information is available at a moment’s notice. I have watched my children—I had to go borrow the encyclopedia from my cousins next door. My kids click on the computer and immediately there are incredible volumes of information. They teach me: Mom, come look at this. Did you ever know this? It is amazing what is available to us. It is equally as important, though, that we, the American people, take the time that is necessary to understand the solutions to the challenges and not succumb to the convenience of modern technologies to take the place of our own good judgment. We cannot do that. The minds of the people of this country, the minds of the body of this institution ensure that we use the good sense God has given us to know what those right solutions are. To all of America, myself included, we must all discern carefully the information that is provided to us. It is all extremely convenient, but convenience is not what this is about. It is not about convenience. It is all about doing the right thing. So I call on not only our good judgment but our collective love for this country so we can meet the challenges our Nation faces. I know I am teaching my children that at home. I am also blocking some of the things they can get on the Internet. But I am also teaching them to use their own minds, their own thoughts: What is it you would have for your fellow man? How would you want people to behave? It is absolutely critical in this day and age.

To my colleagues on both sides of the political aisle, I implore each of you to set the example for our country by working together to move our Nation forward. We must start practicing greater civility toward one another, both privately and publicly. I can’t forget when I first came to the House of Representatives, I called my colleague and neighbor, Bill Emerson from southern Missouri. I told him, I said: Bill, you know when you move into a new place, where I come from you bring somebody a cake or a pie, a batch of rolls or something. I said: I am not a bad cook, but I don’t have a lot of time on my hands. I want to visit with you. You are a Republican, I am a Democrat, but you are my neighbor, and I am willing to bet you agree on far more than we disagree on. As we visited for 45 minutes in that very first introduction, we came to the conclusion that we agreed far more on the same things than we disagreed. We decided to start the civility caucus. It lasted 3 months.

The fact is, there is much work to be done there, and we can do it.

Taking advantage of political gusts of wind is not what our constituents

expect of us nor is it what they deserve. I urge you to have the courage to work across party lines. There is simply no other way to accomplish our Nation's objectives, nor should there be. Although you run the risk of being the center of attention for both political extremes, it is a far greater consequence to put personal or political success ahead of our country, and I know firsthand.

We must have the courage to come out of our foxholes—the foxholes we dig into—to the middle, where the rest of America is and discuss our collective path forward. I am counting on each of you to do so in a way that respects the temporary position we have all been granted here and respect this institution of ours that we have been blessed to inherit. It is an amazing place. Each of you has seen it in your own right and you know it.

To the young people of America, I think this is so important. I came here as the youngest woman in the history of our country to ever be elected to the Senate. I did so because I believed so strongly in the difference I could make. I still do. That is what this country is about. It is about making a difference, not for yourself but for others. I continue that journey now, as I leave this place, knowing there are still so many ways I will make a difference. But to those young people out there in this country, do not think this place is reserved just for age or experience. It is here that you could make a difference, whether you are elected or whether you are one of the incredible and phenomenal staff that helps to run this place, or whether you just simply choose to be out there and engaged in what is going on. There are many contributions to be made to this Nation by the young people of this country.

I leave this body with no regrets and with many incredible friendships. You know the old adage, "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." You all know I have a very large dog. But I also have some wonderful friends, and I am very grateful for those friendships.

When I first arrived, my friend MARY LANDRIEU had been in the hospital. I showed up at her house with a chicken spaghetti casserole, a bag of salad, and a bottle of wine.

She said: What are you doing here?

I said: You know, where I come from, when your neighbor or friend is sick, you take them dinner.

She said: BLANCHE, we don't do that up here.

I said: Let me tell you, if we forget where we come from, there is a big problem.

I am grateful. I will not attempt to go one by one through each of you, but know that every one of you all have a special place in my heart. You have taught me something. You have enriched my life in such a way, it is amazing. You also know—many of you personally—that I follow in some very large footsteps, between so many Arkansans, most recent being McClellan

and Fulbright, David Pryor, and Dale Bumpers, who is my immediate predecessor. I thank Dale for the incredible mentor he has been to me and for the wonderful things he has done for our State.

I leave you with an unbelievable Senator, and that is my good friend MARK PRYOR. He is a statesman. He follows in the footsteps of all of those giants from Arkansas. I am enormously grateful to him for his friendship and, more importantly, for his great service to the people of Arkansas. So I leave you in good hands, without a doubt, with my good friend, Senator MARK PRYOR.

I have been surrounded, both in the past and currently, by an unbelievably dedicated, loyal, and hard-working staff, in my personal Senate office both in Arkansas and Washington, and certainly in the Agriculture Committee. To my staff, they know how much I love them. Our State and this institution are better because of their hard work and dedication. Without a doubt, they are smart and they are a great group of people. I am so blessed to not only know them but to have worked with them.

I have always been blessed with a loving and supportive family who have been my inspiration and bedrock all my life, and they continue to be.

Finally, let me, once again, say thanks to the people of Arkansas. My roots have been and always will be in Arkansas. That will never change. When Steve and the boys and I left after Thanksgiving to come back for the lameduck session—of course, as you all know, traveling with your family and just getting back in time—we left at 5 in the morning. We drove to Memphis because it was faster. We were halfway between. We had been at the cabin duck hunting and celebrating Thanksgiving with family. We were headed to the Memphis Airport, and the Sun was rising over the Arkansas delta.

Now, I am sure many of you all have never seen that, but it is a magnificent view. It reminded me of all of the great things I came here to do. It made me feel blessed with all of the things I was able to accomplish. But to know that I could go back to that same home and see that sunrise, it is unbelievable.

I will always treasure the experiences of this chapter in my life and the thousands of Arkansans I have come to know and love. They are a great group of people. I thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

To the people of Arkansas and this body, my good friends, I yield the floor. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas, Mr. PRYOR, is recognized.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, let me mention a very abbreviated list of BLANCHE LINCOLN's accomplishments: First woman to chair the Senate Agriculture Committee; first woman to chair the Finance Subcommittee on Social Security Pensions and Family

Policy—in fact, the first woman to ever chair a Finance subcommittee—chair of the rural outreach for the Senate Democratic caucus; chair of the Senate hunger caucus; cofounder and cochair of the Third Way; creator of the Delta Regional Authority; author of the 2010 child nutrition bill; a key writer of the 2008 farm bill; author of the refundable child tax credit.

Mr. President, I could go on and on, but most of her accomplishments and contributions cannot be measured. As she worked on the Agriculture Committee, the Finance Committee, the Aging Committee, and the Energy Committee, on a countless number of occasions, on amendments and bills, she became the Senator who was the key to passage or defeat. A couple of years ago, I watched a bill that was making its way through the Senate Finance Committee, and there were a lot of people outside of this Chamber who had a vital interest in the outcome of that legislation. Everywhere I would go I would be stopped and asked: Is this bill going to pass? Will it come out of the committee? Will it get through the floor?

What I told the folks who asked that back then turned out to be true: As BLANCHE goes, so goes the Finance Committee, because she was that way on all of her committees. She was the swing vote, the key vote to getting things done in the Senate.

BLANCHE is a role model for many people, especially young women who are interested in government.

I remember sitting down with one of my good friends earlier this year and his teenage daughter. We talked about the Senate and politics, history, and Arkansas. As we were winding up the conversation, my friend asked his teenage daughter: Who is your favorite politician? Of course, I sat there and straightened my tie because I thought I knew what the answer would be.

Then she said: BLANCHE LINCOLN. And I know why. It is because BLANCHE represents the best in Arkansas. She represents the best in Arkansas in politics and in government. She is a workhorse, not a showhorse.

BLANCHE gets things done. The other night, with my teenage daughter, I watched some of "The Wizard of Oz." As I was watching it, I was struck that the scarecrow, the tin man, and the lion were looking for three things that BLANCHE has, and what every Senator needs in large quantities: a brain, a heart, and courage.

One of Senator LINCOLN's role models she refers to often is Hattie Caraway. Hattie Caraway is not exactly a household name in American politics, but her portrait hangs just outside this Chamber, in the corner, opposite the Ohio Clock. Hattie Caraway of Arkansas was the first woman ever elected to the Senate. There is much to admire about Hattie Caraway as a Senator and as a person, but the one thing that BLANCHE inherited from Hattie is the pioneer spirit.

Even in the first decade of the 21st century, BLANCHE is the owner of many “firsts.” Even though we don’t like to admit it, and we are reluctant to talk about it, there is a double standard in politics for women. There just is. I am proud to serve with the largest number of women this Senate has ever seen, and that goes double for my 8 years with Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN.

Let me say a brief word about her family. Her husband Steve is an old friend of mine. We trace our roots back to Little Rock Central High School and the University of Arkansas. The Lord has blessed BLANCHE and Steve with two bright, energetic, athletic, and even sometimes well-behaved sons—and they are great—who are currently freshmen at Yorktown High School in Arlington. They bring their parents much joy. They are also extremely proud of their mother. I have seen firsthand what a wonderful mother she has been and is. I stand in awe.

In fact, BLANCHE is not only a good Senator and a good mother and a good wife—she is much more. She is a good daughter to her mother, who basically runs Phillips County, AK. She is a good sister in her very large family. She is a good member of her community, helping friends, neighbors, and those in need. BLANCHE is very faithful in her relationship with God, which has given her strength and kept her grounded in good times and in bad. She follows the Golden Rule and puts her faith into action every single day. Simply put, she is a good person.

Lastly, BLANCHE is a good boss. She has drawn to her a very talented and hard-working staff in Washington, DC, and in Arkansas. I know they will always be proud to tell people they worked for Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN.

Before I get carried away, there is one minor matter that I believe I need to address. On occasion—rarely, but every so often—BLANCHE runs a little late. I know many of you are shocked to hear this. Let me tell you why that is. It is because people love BLANCHE and BLANCHE loves people, and she is never too busy to stop, to notice, and to listen. She is never too busy to talk to the Capitol Police or to the janitor here or to that family from Idaho who can’t figure out the Dirksen building. She takes time for people. And that is one of her attributes that makes her so special, because those people are as important to her as the most powerful Members of the Congress. That is what makes BLANCHE special.

It is hard to find just one word to describe Senator LINCOLN—kind, smart, fearless, persistent, knowledgeable, no nonsense, and I could go on. But the one word I would like to focus on today is friend. There are 99 Senators today who consider her a friend. They like her, they like working with her, and they respect her. I have had many Republicans and Democrats say how much they hate to see her leave because she makes this place better.

There is a passage in the Bible that says: “Well done, thou good and faith-

ful servant.” This applies to BLANCHE, but not only to the job that she has done here in Senate. It applies to her as a person. There is a lot more to BLANCHE than just being a Senator. In January, she starts a new chapter. And as much as she will be missed around here, we all have confidence there are many more great things to come.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes each.

The Senator from Indiana.

#### NEW START TREATY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the new START treaty. We undertake this debate at a time when almost 100,000 American military personnel are fighting a difficult war in Afghanistan. More than 1,300 of our troops have been killed in Afghanistan, with almost 10,000 wounded.

Meanwhile, we are in our seventh year in Iraq—a deployment that has cost more than 4,400 American lives and wounded roughly 32,000 persons. We still have more than 47,000 troops deployed in that country. Tensions on the Korean peninsula are extremely high, with no resolution to the problems in North Korea’s nuclear program. We continue to pursue international support for steps that could prevent Iran’s nuclear program from producing a nuclear weapon. We remain concerned about stability in Pakistan and the security of that country’s nuclear arsenal. We are attempting to counter terrorist threats emanating from Afghanistan, Pakistan, east Africa, Yemen, and many other locations. We are concerned about terrorist cells in allied countries, and even in the United States. We remain highly vulnerable to disruptions in oil supplies due to national disasters, terrorist attacks, political instability, or manipulation of the markets by unfriendly oil-producing nations.

Even as we attempt to respond to these and other national security imperatives, we are facing severe resource constraints. Since September 11, 2001, we have spent almost \$1.1 trillion in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are spending roughly twice as many dollars on defense today as we were before 9/11. These heavy defense burdens have occurred in the context of a financial and budgetary crisis that has raised the U.S. Government’s total debt to almost \$14 trillion. The fiscal year 2010 budget deficit registered about \$1.3 trillion, or 9 percent of GDP.

All Senators here are familiar with the challenges I have just enumerated. But as we begin this debate, we should keep this larger national security con-

text firmly in mind. As we contend with the enormous security challenges of the 21st century, the last thing we need to is to reject a process that has mitigated the threat posed by Russia’s nuclear arsenal.

For 15 years, the START treaty has helped us to keep a lid on the U.S.-Russian nuclear rivalry. It established a working relationship on nuclear arms with a country that was our mortal enemy for 4½ decades. START’s transparency features assured both countries about the nuclear capabilities of the other. For us, that meant having American experts on the ground in Russia conducting inspections of nuclear weaponry.

Because START expired on December 5, 2009, we have had no American inspectors in Russia for more than a year. New START will enable American teams to return to Russia to collect data on the Russian arsenal and verify Russian compliance. These inspections greatly reduce the possibility that we will be surprised by Russian nuclear deployments or advancements.

Before we even get to the text of the new START treaty and the resolution of ratification, Members should recognize what a Senate rejection of new START would mean for our broader national security. Failure of the Senate to approve the treaty would result in an expansion of arms competition with Russia. It would guarantee a reduction in transparency and confidence-building procedures, and it would diminish between cooperation and Russian defense establishments. It would complicate our military planning.

A rejection of new START would be greeted with delight in Iran, North Korea, Syria, and Burma. These nations want to shield their weapons programs from outside scrutiny and they want to be able to acquire sensitive weapons technologies. They want to block international efforts to make them comply with their legal obligations. Rogue nations fear any nuclear cooperation between the United States and Russia because they know it limits their options. They want to call into question our own nonproliferation credentials and they want Russia to resist tough economic measures against them.

If we reject this treaty, it will be harder to get Russia’s cooperation in stopping nuclear proliferation. It could create obstacles on some issues in the United Nations Security Council, where Russia has a veto. It might also reduce incentives for Russia to cooperate in providing supply routes for our troops in Afghanistan. It would give more weight to the arguments of Russian nationalists who seek to undermine cooperation with the United States and its allies. It would require additional satellite coverage of Russia at the expense of their use against terrorists.

With all that we need to achieve, why would we add to our problems by separating ourselves from Russia over a