

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as Congress begins next year to consider a range of policy choices in both domestic and foreign policy areas, I hope that at long last, we will decide that the war in Afghanistan must end.

That war has lasted 9 years and we are now engaged in nation building in a country with a government that I believe is both incompetent and corrupt.

We began the actions in Afghanistan to capture or kill the terrorist groups that had launched the 9/11 attack on our country.

Now, many years later, we are bogged down in a war in Afghanistan where our intelligence officials tell us there is only a minimal presence of the terrorist group al-Qaida. Some estimates put the number of al-Qaida operatives in Afghanistan at fewer than one hundred.

We are now engaged in fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan and, frankly, there are a number of foreign armies that have tried and failed in Afghanistan over many centuries.

I don't believe there is any chance of our ever controlling the tribal regions of Afghanistan.

Furthermore, we ought to be fighting terrorism where terrorists, are rather than where terrorists were. We know that al-Qaida has reconstituted training camps in Northern Pakistan, and we suspect that is where their leadership is. We know al-Qaida is in Somalia and Yemen and other places. But, we are bogged down fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. And frankly, that is not where the terrorists are.

It is time for our country to understand that this is an effort that will continue to drain our treasury and will result in the deaths of more American troops, but will not result in our controlling the territory of Afghanistan. We will be stuck for a long period of time with a permanent military presence at great cost and we will be paying for Afghanistan's defense even while failing to control the tribal regions of Afghanistan.

Recognition of those facts ought to persuade us to begin withdrawing from Afghanistan as soon as possible and begin pursuing terrorists where terrorists are now, not where they were then.

 TRIBUTE TO GARY DIONNE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, next month marks the retirement of Mr. Gary Dionne after 34 years in government service. Throughout this time, Gary has been both the consummate professional and a friendly presence in the halls here on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Dionne currently is the deputy director of the Office of Legislative Affairs for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and will be retiring from Federal service after fulfilling a career of dedicated support to the U.S. intelligence community and the National Security mission. A senior in-

telligence officer, Mr. Dionne has had a varied and distinguished career, having worked in different positions and capacities for the Department of Navy, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. For most of that time, Gary worked in the intelligence field where efforts and successes are not always rewarded publicly. I am glad we can do so here today.

Mr. Dionne, the son of Roland and Eva Dionne, a draftsman and consumer sales representative respectively, was raised in the small suburban town of Leominster, MA, a town known best as a hub for plastic factories but gained world-renowned fame as the originator of the plastic pink flamingo!

Following graduation from Leominster High School in 1975, Mr. Dionne enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a cryptologic technician radioman. Trained in Morse code and high frequency direction Finding, Petty Officer Dionne supported U.S. Naval Intelligence while stationed in Augsburg, Germany, followed by a fleet assignment to the Command for Middle East Forces. As a member of the admiral's staff, Mr. Dionne provided intelligence support aboard the U.S.S. La Salle, U.S.S. Vreeland, U.S.S. Elmer Montgomery, U.S.S. Blandy, and the U.S.S. Aylwin.

Completing an enlistment with the U.S. Navy, Mr. Dionne subsequently joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 1981. Following training as a communications officer within the Office of Communications, Mr. Dionne supported intelligence activities in Central America and on back-to-back assignments to West Africa where he was promoted to Officer in Charge of the Telecommunications Unit. In this position he was responsible for the daily supervision of personnel and technical resources to maintain a multimillion-dollar communications facility.

After returning to CIA Headquarters, Mr. Dionne was assigned as deputy chief, headquarters operations branch, where he was responsible for VIP communications in domestic and foreign activities. This included communications support for the Director of Central Intelligence as well as support for Presidential and Cabinet members travel. Building on his technical background, he attended classes at George Mason University working toward a bachelor's degree in network management.

In 1994, Mr. Dionne assumed the responsibility of associate director, of the Agency Network Management Center where he had oversight responsibility for the daily health and welfare of the domestic telecommunications network. Mr. Dionne was then selected as chief of the resource management staff, operations group, where he managed the tactical and strategic direction for a multimillion-dollar telecommunications operational budget. This was an extremely rewarding assignment for Mr. Dionne where his ef-

forts directly supported for the agency's world-wide activities.

Mr. Dionne was selected to participate as a congressional fellow through the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University where he acquired a certificate in legislative studies. Mr. Dionne accepted a position on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce staff and provided technical support to the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet, as well as to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Mr. Dionne viewed his experience in Congress as an awe-inspiring, humbling experience where he witnessed truly remarkable people working the most difficult challenges on behalf of America.

In 2002, following his fellowship in Congress, Mr. Dionne returned to the CIA in the Office of Congressional Affairs where as a liaison officer, he managed congressional activities for the community management account and the directorate of operations. Following the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Mr. Dionne was identified as the responsible congressional liaison officer for all intelligence community engagements with the Congressional Joint Intelligence Committee as Congress conducted their review of the intelligence failures leading up to September 11. From there Mr. Dionne served as the congressional liaison to the National Counter Terrorism Center and to its predecessor, the Terrorist Threat Integration Center. In 2007, Mr. Dionne was selected in to his current assignment as the deputy director of the Office of Legislative Affairs, for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Throughout his career and travels around the world, Mr. Dionne is most grateful to have had the loving support of his wife Catherine who grew up in the same little factory town and whom he has known since they were in middle school together. He is so proud of his two daughters, Danielle, for serving as a 1st grade school teacher in Loudoun County, VA, and his daughter Antonia, for her ability to master Mandarin and who is presently working at the U.S.-China Policy Foundation in Washington, DC.

Mr. Dionne, thank you for your service to our country and good luck in all your future endeavors.

 YOUTH DRUG USE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness and concern that I report that more and more kids are turning to drugs. Recently released annual studies that track drug use trends among youth and adults are indicating rapid increases in drug use among all age groups. The most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicates drug use among people aged 12 and older increased by 9 percent since 2008. According to this survey, over 7 million people in the past year are estimated to have used drugs. Among these