

cannot allow to erode and for us to go back to a time when we were losing there.

Deadly terrorism stalks the world. It is the great challenge of our time. It is the reality of our time. We need the help of all our allies, all our friends all over the world, all the Moslem nations, to continue to root out terrorism and stabilize and secure the world.

This is not an American interest alone. And we cannot do it alone. We are the greatest power the world has ever known. We stand astride the globe as no power in the history of man. But we have limits, too. These coalitions for peace, coalitions for change, will be our future, the world's future. And we must lead that coalition. We cannot press forward on a regime change in Iraq with the fires burning in Israel or we will stand alone, without our allies. We will risk finding ourselves isolated, Israel isolated. It is not in the interest of Israel to find America and Israel isolated in the world.

America's and the world's vital interests are connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—completely, directly, daily. We must give Secretary Powell and the President the time to work through these unprecedented challenges, this unprecedented violence and danger. They need the latitude, the flexibility to work through to a solution, in consultation with the Congress, of course. In this body and in the House of Representatives reside great expertise, ability, common sense, and wisdom on which the President will and is calling.

We need an Arab coalition for peace, building upon the Saudi initiative of Crown Prince Abdullah, incorporating the Tenet plan and the Mitchell plan. We need to support the President's policies to help bring to this region peace which has worldwide consequences. All of the world will be affected by the outcome. There are consequences playing out today, and they will continue to play out, and they are uncontrollable consequences.

In conclusion, I offer a comment that Henry Kissinger made in a statement recently on U.S. policy in the post-cold-war world reality. Dr. Kissinger said this: "history . . . will not excuse failure by the magnitude of the task." It applies very appropriately, clearly, and with deadly accuracy today in the Middle East. The President has shown his courage and the determination that a nation as great and worthy as America is—and can be, and has been—to go forward with the kind of leadership the world expects from us, and, yes, at great risk. But that risk is for peace, and that risk is worth taking. It will be long and difficult, but it can be done. We are dealing with a manmade problem. We will find a manmade resolution.

So I return to the opening of my comments this morning in once again suggesting that Senator DASCHLE had it right yesterday in calling for all of us on Capitol Hill to work together to

support the President, to find solutions and resolutions. Criticism is easy. It is very easy to criticize. But we do not have an option to criticize. We have a responsibility to find a solution. And we will. We must support our President and Secretary Powell in his mission for peace.

Mr. President, I thank you for your attention. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY AND VISA ENTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to consideration of H.R. 3525, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3525) to enhance the border security of the United States, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is time to enact the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act.

I thank my colleagues, Senators BROWNBACK and KYL, on the Judiciary Committee, the Republican leaders on the Judiciary Committee and on this issue, and also acknowledge the very strong leadership of my colleague and friend from California, Senator FEINSTEIN. We have worked very closely together. We all had different legislation in different forms and shapes, but all on a similar subject matter. We have worked closely to make a unified recommendation to the Senate which reflects our best judgment.

It also reflects the best judgment of those who have had the opportunity to study the issues that we have included, and we have benefited from a number of recommendations. I am very grateful to all of our colleagues for all of the good work they have done. We present this as a unified team.

This legislation would strengthen the security of our borders, improve our ability to screen foreign nationals, and enhance our ability to deter potential terrorists. This legislation addresses the significant national security challenges we face today.

The House passed the Border Security Act in December. The Senate action is long overdue.

I believe there are five dimensions to our security challenge today. First is the military. The Armed Forces are performing superbly, and they are well led. Secondly, we have a new intelligence challenge that deals primarily with the control of nuclear and biological materials in the former Soviet Union, and the gaps in what we know about terrorist groups. A third involves a cracking-down on money laundering and improving our ability to follow the financial trail of terrorist groups through the international monetary system, and we have seen important legislation on that subject successfully completed in this body.

Fourth is the area of bioterrorism. Senator FRIST and I have worked closely together to enact the Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act signed by the President in the year 2000. We are in conference now with the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act. We have very good bipartisan support for this legislation—Congressman TAUZIN, House Members—and we are very close to making recommendations with a conference report sometime next week or very shortly thereafter. We have worked very closely in a bipartisan, bicameral way to meet this particular challenge.

Finally, there is the security of our borders, which remains the challenge that needs attention.

As the recent mistakes of the INS demonstrate, the need is urgent to close the loopholes in our immigration system. Border security is the shared responsibility of the INS, the State Department, intelligence agencies, and the Customs Service, and requires improved technology, enhanced intelligence capacity, and dynamic information sharing, updated training for border officials and Foreign Service offices, and expanded monitoring of foreign nationals already in the United States.

Additional restructuring within agencies to streamline the implementation of this multi-faceted goal may be necessary over time, but are not a precondition to the passage of this legislation.

The pressing need for enhanced border security must proceed without further delay.

As I mentioned, the reorganization, restructuring of the INS is important.

I and others have introduced that restructuring in the 105th and 107th Congresses. Basically, that incorporated the recommendations of what we call the Barbara Jordan Commission. The Commission itself spent over a year evaluating and examining the series of recommendations about how to make the whole INS more effective and efficient and respond to both its enforcement as well as its service needs. It is a solid base from which we should move ahead.

But it does seem to all of us that it is important we get about this business now in terms of border security first and not wait for the more general