

I think the only legitimate, reasonable course for us is to go through all we can to avoid military action, but if we do not get the results that need to be had, then that is our alternative.

I think we have been on the right course. And we are not finished. Certainly we are not finished. There is all kinds of evidence that things that were promised or ordered to be done have not been done.

I think one of the things we need to consider is times have changed. Times have changed since September 11. Years ago, when there were threats of war, what it involved, of course, was tanks and divisions landing and all kinds of very obvious military activities. Now the real threat is not that, it is terrorism; it is for things that could happen in this country similar to what happened on September 11—without all that preparation, without all that warning. It just happened in very terrible kinds of incidents. So I think in protecting our country, we need to understand the situation is quite different than it was.

There has been a great deal of talk about smoking guns. Frankly, I do not believe you need to see a smoking gun if you go back to the beginning of this whole enterprise. Go back to 1991, when there was a cease-fire arrangement after the gulf war, after Saddam had been driven out of the country he had invaded. And there was a legal basis for it. There was a cease-fire, an agreement, and a succeeding U.N. resolution which was the sound basis for our action in Iraq.

The Council Resolution 687 was adopted in 1991. At the heart of it was a disarmament obligation from Iraq. Then you remember we had inspectors there up until 1998. There was very little cooperation during all that time, and the evidence they had accumulated then is still available. This was all done under international supervision. But nothing was completed. There was not success in forcing Saddam to disarm. So that is where we are at this time.

I think the policy we have to take takes into account what should have been done, what has not been done—this irresponsible activity on the part of Iraq's leadership—and, therefore, we are in the position to have to be prepared to do whatever is necessary to make that happen.

I certainly hope that can happen. And I presume there is going to be some more time for inspectors. Hopefully, based now on another U.N. resolution, which, of course, was done in November of last year, we can put on more pressure to have him comply with that resolution.

The key to this situation, I hope everyone remembers, is to disarm—not necessarily to attack, not to go into Iraq if we can get disarmament. That, obviously, is the thing we are set up to do.

I believe we ought to continue to follow the vote we took in the Senate. I

think it was 77 votes supporting the President to do what he has to do.

Now there are suggestions of having to go back and do that again. I do not understand that, frankly. The basis for that vote is still the basis for where we are today. The authority there is the authority to finish the job that is very threatening to everyone and, indeed, must be completed.

I certainly support the President and his team in terms of trying to come to a resolution on this situation, being prepared to do what we have to do—hopefully, not having to do it—but to be sure we do everything we can to protect Americans, to protect the world, to establish the responsibility that countries have with respect to the U.N. If we are going to have a U.N., if we are going to have U.N. resolutions, then they should be enforced, and they should be expected to comply.

I believe that is where we are. All of us hope for the best and continue, I hope, to support the President to do what is necessary to protect us from another September 11.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. 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. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF GORDON ENGLAND TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session and the Committee on Governmental Affairs is discharged from further consideration of the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gordon England, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are now 20 minutes evenly divided on the nomination.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Presiding Officer had the misfortune last night to be presiding when I presented the qualifications of Secretary Gordon England to be the Deputy Secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security. Unfortunately for the Presiding Officer, the vote did not

occur last night, so he is going to once again hear a little bit more about Secretary England. But since Gordon England is such an unusually well qualified candidate for this position, I will beg the indulgence of the Presiding Officer as I outline for my colleagues who were not here last evening his qualifications for this important post.

Last Wednesday, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Tom Ridge to be the first Secretary of Homeland Security. Today, I am confident that the Senate will unanimously confirm Gordon England to be Secretary Ridge's Deputy at his side at the helm of this critical new Department.

The Department of Homeland Security opened its doors last Friday. Together, Secretary Ridge and Deputy Secretary England make a formidable team to chart the new Department on a course to protecting our Nation from the threat of terrorist attacks.

As President Bush has said:

Our enemy is smart and resolute, [but] we are smarter and more resolute.

Part of our resolve must be to place the best possible leaders in charge of the new Department of Homeland Security. Gordon England is such a leader. The Committee on Governmental Affairs, which I have the honor of chairing, thoroughly considered his nomination. We held a hearing last Friday. The nominee also responded to extensive prehearing questions. And yesterday the committee unanimously agreed to discharge the nomination to expedite floor consideration.

Gordon England is extraordinarily well qualified for this important post. He currently serves as Secretary of the Navy, a position he has held since May 2001. Moreover, he came to the Navy with an impressive portfolio of management experience. He served as executive vice president of General Dynamics and he was responsible for two major sectors of the corporation: information systems, and international affairs.

Earlier in his career, he served in various executive capacities at a number of divisions of General Dynamics. But as preparation for becoming the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, it would be difficult to beat a tour as the Secretary of the Department of the Navy. As Secretary, Gordon England headed a department with a budget of over \$100 billion and consisting of 462,000 sailors and 212,000 marines.

The Department of Homeland Security, which we often describe as a massive new Department, will bring together a civilian workforce of about 170,000 individuals. The Secretary of the Navy not only had many more military employees to supervise, but he had a civilian workforce of 190,000 employees.

Secretary England's extensive experience in managing large complex operations in both the private and public sectors will serve him well as the Deputy Secretary of the new Department.