

been intentionally trying to downplay the seriousness of those insurrections. Last Wednesday, as Americans were being mutilated, the only public event on the President's schedule was a meeting with members of the Baseball Hall of Fame. That night, he conducted a fundraiser for his reelection. Last Monday, as other Americans were losing their lives, including a Minnesota soldier who was 19 years old, from Moose Lake, MN, giving his life in Iraq, the President threw out the opening pitch at the baseball game in St. Louis, MO. That night, he held another fundraiser for his reelection that raised \$1.5 million. Then he flew on to, according to reports, his ranch in Crawford, TX, for the rest of the week.

I don't think you can downplay, or should try to downplay, the seriousness of these attacks. I think we should face the realities that are occurring, and the Congress and the American people should be told what is happening, why it is happening, and how it is we are

going to respond to these atrocities without any greater loss of American life. That is absolutely essential. We are heading to a weekend of great religious significance, following a weekend of great religious significance to many of our citizens, and at this time what we are doing there is something that is deeply troubling to this Senator, as I know it is to many of the people I represent in Minnesota. We want to see a victory there. We want to see the sacrifices that have been made by American troops justified, and we want it preserved as a victory that will last. But we want to know from this administration what the plan is, what the timetable is, what is going to happen, and what we are doing to forestall these events and warn our forces so they are not ambushed or caught unaware and lose their lives.

We in Congress deserve to get the facts and the truth. Starting tomorrow morning, when we have a briefing from the Secretary of Defense and others in

the military command, it is time to give us the facts, the truth, the real situation, and not put on any white-wash or window dressings but to tell us what we as elected representatives of the people of this country have a right to know, and what the people of America have a right to know. What is happening? Why is it becoming more severe? What are the consequences to the troops? And what are the administration's intentions to deal with them?

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 8, at 10 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:08 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 10 a.m.