Their report found there were no attempts to influence analysts or no evidence that administration officials attempted to coerce, influence, or pressure an analyst to change his or her judgment—not once.

Every member of the Intelligence Committee, Republican and Democrat, approved that report. The Silverman-Robb report and six other major studies found there is no basis for the claim that the administration lied to get us to go to war.

The search for weapons of mass destruction will not be completed on our timetable. Look at this picture: The Iraqis buried entire planes in the desert. We have two photographs of planes being unearthed, full planes buried beneath the sand. When we pulled them out, they were still operable.

Our troops found 30 of these planes buried in the sands of the Al-Taqqadum airfield west of Baghdad—30 planes. That is one-tenth of their entire combat Air Force. If Saddam Hussein's troops had buried one-tenth of their combat aircraft in the desert, who is to say there were no weapons of mass destruction similarly buried? Just because they were not found does not mean they were never there. The Nation of Iraq is the size of California. The materials needed to make weapons of mass destruction could fit in a container the size of a family bathtub. Weapons of mass destruction are no bigger than a family bathtub.

We now stand at a critical moment in history. I believe we must reflect on events leading to the war, but this process is only useful if it is honest and accurate. Those who are trying to rewrite history, revisionist history of these events are simply advancing their own political agendas. They are not advancing the important work due now in the region—and do so on a bipartisan basis.

I agree with the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services. A flexible timetable for troop withdrawal could jeopardize our men and women in uniform and their mission. The only way we can lose in Iraq is if we defeat ourselves, if we refuse to stay the course. The path to progress is slow and steady. It has milestones, but it does not have timelines. We must remain behind our troops.

Over 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers began the great American experiment. They set out to create a government defined by its commitment to liberty and freedom. Iraq is one of this century's proving grounds for those ideals. Our men and women in uniform, all volunteers, are helping the people of Iraq and Afghanistan build their emerging democracies. Their sacrifices ensure, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, ''that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this Earth.''

Distorting our prewar intelligence will not help them complete their mission. We must support the important work they are doing in Iraq, not send mixed messages. The men and women in uniform were asked to go to Iraq to help Iraq become a democracy dedicated to freedom. They are doing that. I will continue to support those and stay the course and support Iraq's efforts to stand up their own forces so they can defend that freedom.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2020.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2020) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year 2006.

Pending:

Dorgan amendment No. 2587, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a temporary windfall profit tax on crude oil and to rebate the tax collected back to the American consumer.

Durbin amendment No. 2596, to express the sense of the Senate concerning the provision of health care for children before providing tax cuts for the wealthy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, this morning we intend to continue two major amendments from this side of the aisle. The amendment of Senator CONRAD from North Dakota proposes a fiscally responsible substitute; the amendment of the Senator from Washington, Ms. CANTWELL, is regarding energy price gouging. These are both very important amendments and an important debate. I ask consent the pending amendments be temporarily laid aside so Senator CONRAD may offer an amendment.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2602

(Purpose: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma and to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes)

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, first I thank the ranking member on the Senate Committee on Finance, Senator BAUCUS, for his leadership and for the extraordinary amount of work he does to make the work of the Committee on Finance as responsible as it can be.

There are many provisions in the underlying bill that has come out of the Committee on Finance that I support. I think they are broadly supported extensions of expiring tax provisions that ought to be extended.

I salute the chairman of the Committee on Finance, Senator GRASSLEY, for the good job he has done in putting together this package. While I agree with many of the specific provisions, I have one profound area of disagreement. That profound area of disagreement is that this package is not paid for. The result, if we pass this package, will be to deepen the deficit, to add to the debt, when we already have record deficits and we already have runaway debt.

My colleagues are going to have to answer the question, Why shouldn't we pay for these tax provisions? Why shouldn't we cover the cost? Why shouldn't we prevent the deficit from being expanded? Why shouldn't we prevent the debt from being deepened?

That is the question posed by my amendment. It takes many of the provisions in the Committee on Finance bill, the expiring tax provisions, and extends them for 1 year. It pays for them fully.

It is very important to remember the history. How did we get in the position we are in today? My colleagues will remember this very famous chart that the administration and the Congressional Budget Office presented back in 2001. This part of the chart I call the fan chart showed the range of possible outcomes if we didn't change any budget policies. This range of possible outcomes from a best case scenario; to a median scenario, the midpoint between the range of possible outcomes is the prediction line adopted; to the worst case scenario. These were the projections given to us if we just did nothing.

My colleagues on the other side said: No, this is too conservative, this range of possible outcomes. They said: Don't you understand, if we have tax cuts we will get more revenue so we will be above the midpoint of the range. We might be even above the best case scenario. The problem with that theory is that it did not work out in reality.

Here is what happened in reality: This red line is far below the worst case scenario outlined by the Congressional Budget Office in 2001. I have caught the chairman's attention. He will remember the chart very well from 2001, what the Congressional Budget Office said was the range of possible outcomes. The Congressional Budget Office adopted this midrange of the estimates as their projection.

Many of my colleagues on the other side told me, when I said we shouldn't be betting on a 10-year forecast: Kent, you are way too conservative. Don't you understand if we cut taxes we will get more revenue. We will be above the midpoint of the range of possible outcomes.

Now we can go back and we can check what has actually happened. That is this red line. It is below the worst case possible outcome. Far below it.

So this notion that the tax cuts were going to generate more revenue and were going to prevent massive deficits proved to be wrong. It is very simple.