

jobs over the last couple of years. That is a lot of work. That is a lot of jobs. We have had a reduction in unemployment. We have had a good deal more activity in the economic sector, and there is no question about that.

Now, some places are different from others. In my State, we have had a great deal of economic opportunity. We have lower unemployment than we have had for a very long time.

We have managed to reduce taxes. I think that is a good thing. That is what has encouraged the economy. That is what has created these new job opportunities.

We cut taxes by \$70 billion. Most of us agree that we ought to be able to keep the taxes as low as we can and continue to provide the services.

We have cut entitlement growth in terms of trying to deal with the deficit. We need to do much more with the deficit, but we have cut entitlement growth—\$100 billion in the 10 years to come.

There are things that we are doing. We have accomplished a good deal, although there is much more to do. There is no question about that. But we ought to do it by planning together, by deciding together. The idea of just making this criticism doesn't get much done.

We have worked on energy. We have done a great deal on energy. Certainly we wish prices were still lower, but the fact is, we have had the energy, and that is an interesting thing. With all the dislocation there has been in the Middle East, with all the dependency we have had on energy in the Middle East, we have still been able to keep our energy supply going.

Now, interestingly enough, gas prices are going down. There are new discoveries in the gulf coast which we in the Congress opened recently. That is a very important thing to help us with energy. It could create a real opportunity for us to have lower energy prices. But the fact is, over time we have to find some new sources of energy.

We have an energy bill that is in place, an energy policy passed in this Congress for the first time in years. Now, of course, we are working on alternative sources.

Those do not happen overnight, so it will be 15 or 20 years before some of these new sources become important, but they will be, and that is the kind of looking forward that I believe we have to have.

As a result of this Congress, we have an energy policy that is working out for alternative sources, working out for more efficiency and more conservation in our use. We have to do that over time. There is no question about that.

These are very important things that have been done. If you just listen to the media and listen to what sometimes is said here, as it was this morning, you would think nothing has been done, and it has. As much as we want? Of course not. Everything we want? Of

course not. Nevertheless, a good deal has been done.

We have done some things in education. We increased the Pell grants for math and science competitiveness. We continue to strengthen our schools. More funding has gone to education. We have done that here. Those are positive things that are changing our country.

We have had a good deal of trouble with lawsuits over a period of time. We had some class action reform this past year, and bankruptcy reform, so people are treated better under the law.

We have had gun liability reform, which means a lot to many people.

I guess I continue to repeat myself, but I think it is so unfair to say that things haven't been done, that we haven't done anything, the do-nothing Congress. It is not true. Could we do more? Of course.

As I said, one of the reasons we have not done more is because, under the system, the minority can object and can stop things from happening, and has a great deal.

We have done a good deal more with our infrastructure, with highways. We have had great changes in that.

On health care—one of the things that is most important to us and which has great challenges—we have done a great deal with drugs, the Part D drug benefit. That gives more opportunities—83 percent of the people in Wyoming who are eligible have signed up for the Part D health care. I happen to work as cochairman of the group on rural health care. Rural health care is a little different, and we have to take a look at some of the problems that are different from metropolitan areas. We have accomplished a great deal, having more providers be there. We have made the cost payments equal in rural areas. So we have done a good deal there. We have worked on adult stem cell therapy with cord blood. We have done those things. There has been work on technology, work that needed to be done.

On the Supreme Court, of course, two judges have been put on the Supreme Court, 14 circuit judges, and 34 district court judges. Does that mean we have done nothing in the Congress? I don't believe that is true.

We have more to do. There is always that thought. I am disappointed we have not moved faster on the appropriations bills. Traditionally, we should be further along than we are. Part of the problem, of course, is there are real problems with spending. We have to do something about spending. We can't continue to spend at the rate that we had to spend because we had emergencies, such as Katrina and such as the war on terror and Iraq. When you do that in your business or your family, you have to change; go back and make the changes to pick up what you had to do in the emergency. That is where we are now, seeking to make those differences.

Within Government we have done some lobbying reform. It needed to be

done. We have done some of that. We have worked on the Voting Rights Act.

I guess I am a little impatient, coming back from having worked in my State where people are reasonably happy with what is happening, and then listening to the total negative reaction we have on the floor this morning about having done nothing when that is not the case. Could we do more? Of course, we should do more.

I will not take much more time, although it looks as if I could take as much time as I choose this morning. I am sure we will get on into it.

We have a lot of challenges. There is no question about that. Homeland security is one of those challenges. We have other things we need to deal with. I wish we could deal with immigration. That is one of the things I would like to do.

I am very much involved in energy, in the Energy Committee. My State is an energy State. We have a lot to do there to move forward.

In any event, I guess I am really saying we need an attitude that is a do-something attitude. We absolutely disagree about some of the issues. That is part of the system. We are going to have that as we are getting into an election. That is part of the system. But we need to be honest about the fact that we have done some things. We have things to do, and we need to work together to get them done. It seems to me that is our challenge.

I yield the floor and 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. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

THIRD WAY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, it is good to see you, and it is good to be back in the Senate with you and our colleagues. With tongue in cheek, people ask me what I like about the Senate. I draw an analogy about when I was in elementary school. What I liked most about elementary school was recess. Now that I serve in the Senate, I am still quite fond of recesses. It is a great time to go back home—whether it is Texas, Delaware, or anywhere—and reconnect with the folks we serve and with our families.

I just had an opportunity to talk to the Presiding Officer about what he did. It is good to be back and to recharge the batteries and to focus. Now that we are back, I look forward to doing that with you, Mr. President.

Twelve years ago this summer, six Democratic centrist Senators pulled together to provide support for the founding and launching of something called Third Way. Third Way is a think tank which seeks to find a third way to

deal with some of the issues and some of the challenges that face us today—not necessarily a Democratic or Republican approach but a different approach. Thinking outside of the box, every month or so Third Way presents smart people who come to work there with their ideas and their thoughts on what we might do or should be doing differently to move our country forward.

Just a few months ago, in one of the rooms outside of the Senate floor, a number of our colleagues, joined by General Wesley Clark, Congressman STENY HOYER, the Democratic whip from the House, and a woman named Sharon Burke from Third Way, joined together to talk about the path and the course our country is on and whether it is time for us to continue the course or stay the course or whether it is the right time, in some ways at least, to change course.

Third Way has done great work, working particularly with the situation in Afghanistan and Iraq, and offered some of their thoughts to us which are actually found in this document. It is not all that long. It is a very well documented and very sobering assessment. Given the source of their comments, I think it bears special attention. The world changed on September 11. I know that, and I think we all know that. In addition, the world has changed a whole lot since September 11.

This report from Third Way shows in ways which I think are sobering and compelling that some of those changes have not been for the better.

I think if you ask most people in the Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, what they think about me, among other things they might say, I think a number of them would say they have found me to be someone who goes out of his way to try to bring people together, to try to find common ground, to try to come up with a better solution to the challenges that we face day in and day out in this country and in the Senate.

I wish I could honestly say the same thing today about our President, but I am sorry to say that I cannot. I wish that instead of trying to politicize the war on terror and the situation in Iraq, or to insinuate that Democrats don't have the strength to stand up to our enemy, that he would sit down with us and talk about how we might move forward in Iraq and around the world.

I am reminded of the 8 years when I was Governor of Delaware. Every week that the Delaware Legislature was in session I would host, as my predecessor, Governor Mike Castle, and my successor, Governor Ruth Ann Minner have hosted every Tuesday, a bipartisan lunch for the leaders of the house and senate. We would meet in the Governor's house, which was close to the capitol, where we may have lunch together and talk for an hour or so, and then we would go to work for the legislative day. Sometimes we would talk

about our families, sports, or the weather. A lot of times we talked about the issues that were before us.

One of the questions I would often ask of Democratic and Republican leaders in the house and senate who were gathered there in the Governor's house that particular day was whether they had criticism of a policy or an issue that we would propose. I would ask them: What do you think we should do? What do you like about what we are proposing and where do you think we could improve on our policies?

And with respect to some of the policies of this administration—the President's policies—in too many instances they haven't worked. At least with respect to what is going on in Iraq today, they have not made us any safer.

As one who served 23 years on active duty with the Reserve as a Naval flight officer, I served in a hot war in Vietnam and a Cold War for many years after that. I love our troops. I love the folks in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, people in the Guard and Reserve who serve with great distinction and honor. Anything I said or, frankly, we said as a group a few minutes ago when we released this report should be viewed as expressing our support and our thanks and gratitude for those serving us in harm's way together.

Back in 2003, it was estimated there were roughly over 5,000 insurgents in Iraq. That was 3 years ago. Now we believe there are more than 20,000 insurgents in Iraq. In Afghanistan, the number of Taliban attacks has skyrocketed in the past 3 years.

We learned this week that opium production is up almost 60 percent from last year. Listen to this: Afghanistan is now producing a third more opium than the world's heroin addicts are crying out for. They are producing more heroin in Afghanistan than this country and the rest of the world can consume. Who is profiting from this drug trade? The Taliban and the Afghan insurgency who are trying to destabilize the government we put in place.

Meanwhile, Iran and North Korea, emboldened by our distractions in Iraq and the lack of effective diplomacy by the United States, are now defying the international community in their pursuit of nuclear weapons.

It is clear, at least to me and I believe to a lot of the people I talked to back in Delaware over the course of the last several weeks, that we need a new direction from this President, from this administration. At least so far we have not seen or planned to correct some of the mistakes we have made to put us back on the right track.

None of us have all the answers. I don't; I don't believe any of us do. But I do know one thing: Our President needs to get over his ideological aversion to diplomacy if we are going to solve the other problems facing us in Iraq and around the world.

As one of our American Ambassadors said to me not long ago when I was

overseas: Just because we ignore someone doesn't mean they are going away.

With all due respect, I believe our President needs to reach out to the international community, to moderate Arab governments, to broker an agreement between sectarian governments in Iraq to head off civil war.

When I was abroad this last December, I met with officials from Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq. I heard from a number of folks from a number of the countries, and the leaders of those countries that we visited, that they have tribal relations—tribes in Saudi Arabia, for example; Jordan has tribal relations with the tribes in the country of Iraq. Saudis, Egyptians, and others are majority Sunni, and they have relations there as well. Some of those countries have a lot of money. A good deal of it is our money because we buy their oil products. They have a number of incentives not to want to see that part of the world devolve into terrorism, to see Iraq become a hotbed of terrorism and to be destabilized. It is not in the interests of any of the countries I have mentioned and some I have not mentioned.

We have to be smart enough as a country and with our administration to call on the other countries to bring to bear not just their money to help the situation in Iraq but the relationships that their people have with the tribes in Iraq and, frankly, with the Sunnis and with other elements of those of the population in Iraq. We need to work with our allies to establish a real and credible roadmap to peace in the Middle East.

I remember having lunch about 15 months ago, in Washington on the other side of the Capitol, with Palestinian President Abbas, along with some of our colleagues. He had been in office for 5 months. He was elected in January of last year. Over lunch, I asked: President Abbas, when do you think it would be an appropriate time for us, for this country, to put in the Middle East a high-level, full-time envoy, to work every day to implement the roadmap to peace? When would be a good time to do that?

This was June of last year. He had been elected January 6 last year. I will never forget what he said to me. He said: Five months ago.

I was convinced that day, convinced when I have gone to the Middle East, I am convinced today that we have let a great opportunity slip through our fingers. One of the reasons the Taliban, al-Qaida or the other terrorist groups were able to recruit people to blow themselves up, to terrorize those countries and to try to kill the rest of us is because of their ability to point to the Middle East and say: Look at the Americans, they are only for the Israelis. They have no interest in the Palestinians having a homeland of their own.

To the extent we could have brokered over the last couple of years and put

the kind of energy, time, and investment into getting a negotiated settlement in the Middle East, as we have put other kinds of investments in Iraq and in Afghanistan, both we and those countries and, I think, our people and other people would be better off, but we have missed that opportunity. My fear is we are missing it again today. The roadmap for peace has become in the Middle East, at least for now, a roadmap to war.

Let me close by saying what is needed in this capital, in this country, is leadership that fosters a cooperative spirit. That may be a tribal man's hope over peace, triumph over reality as we approach an election 2 months out, but I believe that is what is needed—the kind of leadership that fosters a cooperative spirit. If we cannot get that leadership now before the election, my God, I hope we can find it when this election is over. I hope our President can give us that kind of leadership and work with those who are anxious and willing to truly make this country and the world a safer place during his 2 remaining years in office.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURR). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for a minimum of 15 minutes in morning business.

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

CONFRONTING TERRORISM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I was delighted to hear my friend and our colleague from Delaware speak a few moments ago. I like and admire him a great deal. I take him at his word when he says we ought to work more closely together in a bipartisan spirit to solve the Nation's problems.

While I have said how much I have admired and respected him, I disagree with him. That is what we are certainly at liberty to do in the Senate. I hope we do not degenerate into disagreements being personal or that disagreements, particularly when it comes to security matters, cast aspersions on one's patriotism.

I certainly do not doubt the patriotism of those who disagree with our current policy in the global war on terror, but there are some important reasons why their policies would lead us down a path—assuming they have a policy or a plan—dangerous to this country's security.

It is imperative for Members of the Senate, those who have been entrusted with this sacred responsibility to represent the American people, the people of my State of Texas, all 23 million, it

is imperative to explain to the American people the threat that confronts our Nation today from a national security perspective and the consequences of our failing to deal with that threat in a way that will be likely to accomplish peace and stability in troubled regions of the world such as the Middle East.

I fear the big disagreement between some of my colleagues and I on this issue has to do with a different perception of the threat and perhaps a different perception of what the consequences would be for failing to deal with that threat, so I will talk about that for a moment.

Contrary to what some of our colleagues have said, this threat that our Nation confronts is not limited to Iraq. It is not limited to Afghanistan. Indeed, some have spoken about the need to bring our troops home from Iraq, as if, if we did so, all of our problems would go away and the threat with which our Nation is confronted would simply evaporate. That is simply wishful thinking.

Indeed, some have said this is not a war at all, this is more of a police action; this is something that is certainly not like World War II, when we knew who the enemy was and we knew the threat, or at least after a while we finally learned what the threat was to civilization as we know it.

This war is not limited to Iraq. So if we were to leave Iraq, the war would not be over but merely take place in a different location—unfortunately, right back in the United States.

The threat is that of those who believe in an extreme version of one of the world's great religions and who believe this extremism—some have called it Islamic fascism—this hijacking of one of the world's great religions has justified in their minds the killing of innocent men, women, and children and the establishment ultimately of a theocratic or religious State. It does not respect individual rights. It does not respect the right to worship according to the dictates of your own conscience. It certainly does not recognize freedom of speech and freedom of expression and certainly does not recognize the rights of women as equal members of society.

The important point I make is that some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who doubt we are at war, who doubt the global nature of the war, and who say if we were merely to bring our troops home from Iraq the threat would evaporate, one of the mistakes they make is they fail to perceive when this war started.

If you were to ask, I bet many of them would say the war started on September 11, 2001. However, the war had long been raging against America before September 11, 2001; America had simply failed to realize it. One useful date for identifying when the start of this war began would be November 4, 1979. That was the date that 66 American citizens were kidnapped and held

hostage in the American embassy in Iran for a period of 444 days. Or you might say the war started in 1983, when 241 marines were killed in the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, by Hezbollah—the same terrorist organization, a proxy of Iran through Syria, that recently rained down Katyusha rockets on northern Israel, this same terrorist organization that has killed more American citizens than any other in world history, save and except for al-Qaida. Or you could say the war started in 1993, when al-Qaida engineered the bombing of the World Trade Center in a failed attempt to bring down that trade center, which they successfully accomplished 8 years later.

You could say part of that war that started, perhaps as far back as 1979, continued when 17 American sailors were killed when the USS *Cole* was bombed. And yes, the date we focus on the most, that had the most dramatic impact on us right here at home, was September 11, 2001, the fifth anniversary of which will be coming up in the next few days.

But some people act as if September 11, 2001, was the single and solitary event that defined this war of Islamic extremists who hate our way of life and simply want to eliminate it from the face of the Earth, along with our ally in the Middle East, Israel. They do not connect the dots to what happened in Beslan, Russia, at that school; Bali; Madrid; London; Mumbai—places where individuals, driven by this extremist ideology, which says that men, women, and children are simply fair game in pursuit of their agenda—are driven with such hatred that they will make no distinctions between armed citizens, military, people who can defend themselves or not—and, yes, these are the same individuals driven by the same ideology that recently rained down more than 2,000 rockets out of southern Lebanon into northern Israel. Hezbollah, supplied by Syria and Iran, delivered these very rockets.

Some wonder why America is so determined to make sure Iran does not get nuclear weapons. One reason why it is so critical we stop President Ahmadi-Nejad and his regime from getting nuclear weapons is: Do you doubt for a minute that if Iran had nuclear weapons they could have supplied Hezbollah to carry out those attacks on Israel they would have withheld their hand, that they would have failed to use them? I have no doubt in my mind that, based on this war against the West and against America, and specifically that has been raging since 1979, that if terrorist states, and those who support Islamic extremism, Islamic fascism, if they had it within their power to supply biological, chemical or nuclear weapons to terrorists in order to accomplish their goals, they would use them.

That is the challenge we must meet. A few months ago, my wife and I visited the battlefield at Gettysburg,