

questions about what might have been had the pieces of the puzzle been put together in a different way before that sad and tragic day in September.

I cannot answer the questions my constituents are asking. I cannot answer the concerns raised by the families of the victims. As agonizing as it is even to think that there was intelligence suggesting the possibility of the tragedy that occurred, particularly for the family members who lost their husband, their wife, their son, their daughter, their niece, their nephew, their mother, their father, it is a subject we are absolutely required to explore.

As for the President, he may not be in a position at this time to respond to all of those concerns, but he is in a position to answer some of them, including the question of why we know today, May 16, about the warning he received. Why did we not know this on April 16 or March 16 or February or January 16 or August 16 of last year?

I do hope and trust that the President will assume the duty that we know he is capable of fulfilling, exercise the leadership that we know he has, and come before the American people, at the earliest possible time, to answer the questions so many New Yorkers and Americans are asking. That will be a very great help to all of us.

I know my constituents want those answers, particularly the families who still today wonder why their loved one went to work that beautiful September morning and did not come home from the World Trade Center or the Pentagon or those airplane flights. After all, in the grieving process, it is often the not knowing that hurts the most.

I hope the President will address these issues, will do so as soon as possible, and will also authorize the release of any other information that New Yorkers and Americans have a right to know. I certainly look forward to learning of and being able to share that information with the people I represent.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BAYH). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I have some remarks on another subject I would like to make. I commend our colleague and friend from New York for her comments. I associate myself with her remarks. I think all Americans would.

Obviously, it is critically important we know all that we possibly can of what occurred. If there was, in fact, information that should have been acted on, it is critically important we know about it, what happened, and why actions were not taken, so we minimize the possibility of the events of September 11 from occurring again.

We all realize, as our colleague and friend from New York has pointed out, it is a difficult job being the Chief Executive Officer of this country, the Commander in Chief. And there is a vo-

luminous amount of material that arrives every day from our national security agencies and services. But when you get information this specific, this detailed, arriving from a variety of different sources, then someone should have taken better action, in my view.

So I am hopeful we will get a response. It is critically important for the healing process and for understanding exactly what occurred. So I commend the Senator for her remarks and associate myself with them.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I commend our former Chief Executive of the country—former President Ronald Reagan. I just attended a ceremony in the Rotunda of the Capitol honoring former President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan. We are from different parties, and we had disagreements during his administration. But one thing can be said about President Ronald Reagan: Whatever disagreements or agreements you may have had on specific policy issues, Ronald Reagan gave this country a strong sense of confidence and optimism.

We had come through a difficult time in the 1970s, with Watergate, the Iranian crisis, and the energy crisis that had been debilitating to our spirit. Ronald Reagan restored our Nation's confidence in itself. I commend the President. I know he is suffering from Alzheimer's, and Mrs. Reagan has taken on the heroic efforts of being his eyes and ears in the sense of speaking for him where appropriate. It was a very moving ceremony in the Rotunda, where both the President and First Lady were recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal.

So as one Democrat, to a former Republican President, but more importantly a great American President, I express my gratitude to him for his service, and Mrs. Reagan for her remarkable service both to her husband and family and this country.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

Mr. DODD. Secondly, Mr. President, I commend President Carter for his work this week. I have been so impressed with the efforts that President Carter has made in Cuba during the past 4 or 5 days. I think he has spoken for many of us in this country during his visit to Cuba.

While in Cuba, President Carter addressed the Cuban people on national radio and television—a unique opportunity in a country that is a totalitarian regime where democracy has had no expression now for more than four decades.

In having been granted permission to address the Cuban people, President Carter was given a right that no Cuban other than the President of the country, and those who agree with him, has

been given—the opportunity to speak freely about democratic values, values that we embrace as a people and the 11 million people of Cuba embrace as well.

In his address, President Carter urged the government of Cuba to allow democracy to be restored, and asked that pro-democracy petitions be allowed to be collected, and respected.

He simultaneously called for the U.S. government to allow free travel to Cuba and stated his belief that our government should begin to lift our embargo. I commend him for those comments.

The only place I know of in the world that we prohibit our citizens from traveling to is the island of Cuba. You can go to Iraq. You can go to North Korea. You can go to Iran. You can go to any other country around the globe, some of which are our most devout enemies when it comes to terrorism. You may be stopped from entering by the governments of those countries, but our Government does not prohibit you from going. Cuba is the only country where Americans are prohibited from entering by our country.

And for the hundreds of thousands of Cuban Americans who have family and loved ones there, who are only allowed to go back once a year, who would like to go and see their family members more than once a year, perhaps to go see an ailing parent or grandparent, I find this to be a particularly onerous provision in American law. I hope it will be changed, just as I am hopeful that change will come to Cuba and democracy will arrive on that island so the people will have the opportunity to elect and choose their political leadership.

In summary, President Carter, by calling upon the Cuban Government to change its ways and our own Government to change some policies, I think gave the appropriate message; one that can be appreciated not only here, but on the island of Cuba by the Cuban people and freedom-loving people around the globe.

So today, I take this moment to express my gratitude to this former President who, in his retirement, has accomplished so many wonderful things and become such a wonderful symbol for human rights and dignity and democracy around the globe.

I am proud to stand here and honor two former Presidents who faced each other in an election 1980, but in their own way have made unique contributions to our Nation. President Carter continues to do so. I commend him for his work in Cuba and look forward to his return and hearing from him. I am hopeful that he will come before us in Congress in some setting in which he might be able to describe his feelings about events in Cuba while sharing his opinion of what the prospects hold for the future.

With that, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.