

I have pledged to the distinguished majority leader that we are going to do all we can to complete our work in that timeframe. That will take cooperation and it will take efficient use of the next 2 weeks. I think it is doable. I am very hopeful that by working together we can recognize this is one of the most important opportunities not only for our investment in infrastructure, but for the creation of good jobs and what it can mean in the longer term for the economy. This is a good moment for all people involved. I just hope we seize the moment and do all we can to successfully complete our work.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH DAKOTA NATIVE ADAM VINATIERI OF THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I congratulate a South Dakota native, Adam Vinatieri, on yet another Super Bowl-winning field goal.

These are the kinds of heroics South Dakotans and New England Patriot fans have come to expect from Adam. Growing up in Rapid City, Adam lettered in football, soccer, track, and wrestling for the Central High School Cobblers. He was a 4-year letterman as a place-kicker at my alma mater, the South Dakota State University Jackrabbits. He actually set the school record for points scored.

In the last 30 years, only twice has the Super Bowl been won by a last-second field goal. On both of these occasions, the kicker was Adam Vinatieri.

Once again—and certainly not for the last time—he has brought pride to his State and joy to Patriot fans everywhere. I congratulate him.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with the time until 3 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the Senator from Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, controlling the time allocated to the minority. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we want to make sure Senator GRAHAM has all the time he needs for the remarks he wishes to make. He is going to be finished around 2 o'clock, and then time will be controlled by either Senator DASCHLE or his designee. You said all time would be controlled by the Senator from Florida.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct, and the remainder of the time will revert to the leader.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that be the case.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Florida.

THE NEED FOR INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence during most of the 107th Congress, I worked with colleagues from the House and Senate to accept the responsibility of reviewing the horrific events that struck our Nation's symbols of commerce and security on September 11, 2001, claiming the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans. From New York City and the Pentagon to a field in rural Pennsylvania, 9-11 demonstrated the vulnerabilities of our free society.

But in my view, and after the careful review of the Intelligence Committees, the most tragic aspect of this day never to be forgotten is that it could have been prevented. Had our intelligence agencies been better organized and more focused on the problem of international terrorism—particularly Osama bin Laden—September 11th would have been prevented.

I also have concluded that, had the President and the Congress initiated the reforms that our joint inquiry recommended, we might well have avoided the embarrassment of the flawed intelligence on weapons of mass destruction—or the misleading use of that intelligence—which formed the basis of our war against Iraq.

Surely, the people of America would be safer today had these reforms been undertaken.

So today, and in remarks in the next 2 days, I would like to review with my colleagues the conclusions of the House-Senate joint inquiry.

We have learned that intelligence failures played a central role in the events of 9-11. Let me illustrate some of those failures:

The Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, was tracking two of the hijackers and knew that they had been to a summit meeting of terrorists in Malaysia in early January of 2000. However, the CIA failed to inform the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, INS, or Customs officials that these individuals were on their way to the United States. The result is that when they arrived on a commercial airliner in the United States in order to execute their dastardly plan, they were welcomed into our country by unwitting entry agents.

These same two hijackers were living with an FBI asset, but the informant failed to ask basic questions. Others in the FBI recognized the danger of Islamic extremists using airplanes as weapons of mass destruction, but their warnings were ignored by superiors. Still others failed to understand the legal avenues available to them that may have allowed available investigative techniques to be used to avert the 9-11 plot.

Current national security strategy demands more accurate intelligence than ever before:

Terrorists must be found before their strikes. This will require intelligence agents capable of penetrating their cells to provide intelligence early enough to frustrate the terrorists' intentions;

If preventive or pre-emptive military actions are to be a central part of our national security strategy, to maintain its credibility of those actions with the American people and the world, will require the support of the most credible intelligence;

If we are to frustrate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, America must provide an intelligence capability for all of those regions of the world which are suspect.

Now, as never before, intelligence matters.

In responding to the events of 9-11, Congress created a joint committee consisting of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees. A bipartisan, bicameral panel of this type had never before been formed in the 213 years of the U.S. Congress. Our effort reflected the unique circumstances and the national unity we all felt in the immediate aftermath of 9-11.

One of the principal reasons for conducting the inquiry in this way was to give our recommendations the maximum credibility, above the usual cries of partisanship that frequently taint the work of congressional committees. The importance of our task cannot be understated. We sought to identify the problems in the intelligence community that allowed the 9-11 attacks to go undetected and propose solutions to those problems.

In the end, we were successful in identifying the problems because we all understood how much was at stake and that our enemy would not rest while we attempted to fix our problems. We were less successful in securing consideration of the solutions from the intelligence agencies, the White House, and the Congress.

The fact that we conducted this bipartisan, bicameral inquiry and submitted recommendations creates a new heightened level of congressional responsibility. If the terrorists are successful in another attack in the United States, the American people will demand to know what the institutions of government learned from 9-11, and how the intelligence agencies, the White House, and the Congress used that knowledge to harden the United States against future terrorist attacks. Congress was largely able to avoid accountability for 9-11. Mark my words: There will be no avoidance of responsibility for the next attack.

There will be no avoiding responsibility for the President. September 11, 2001, was a wake up call—it told us we had severe deficiencies in our intelligence community. If 9-11 was a wake up call, the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was a report card on how far we have come since 9-11 in correcting the problems in our intelligence community. The grade we received on that report card is F. The President and Congress have failed to initiate the reforms recommended by a series of review panels and our bipartisan, bicameral joint committee of inquiry.