

of democracy, the simple cause of freedom that is being fought for in Iraq today.

America is providing the kind of leadership the world respects and the world has come to understand; that it is what America stands for. When Americans provide that kind of leadership, it is incumbent on all Americans to rally around the leadership of this country in times of great crisis in the world, when we are the leader of the free world, and not to try to incite the other side, not try to create a more difficult position for our brave men and women in the military, who today continue to be in harm's way and continue to suffer loss of life.

Speaking of that, I concur with my friend from Minnesota, our hearts go out to the families of those brave men and women—all 600-plus—who have suffered loss of life in Iraq as a result of their fight for the cause of freedom. In addition to that, we have a number of men and women who have been injured; and, again, it is for the right reason.

I had a great privilege about 2 weeks ago of visiting a number of military bases in my State. One of the bases I visited was Fort Gordon, GA. At Fort Gordon, right outside of Augusta, we had a tour of the base, the usual things that we do to see what is going on with respect to the missions at Fort Gordon. At the end of the day, I had the opportunity to participate in a very unique ceremony. It was a reenlistment ceremony, where 17 men and women were reenlisting in the U.S. Army.

Some of these men and women had been longtime members of the Armed Forces; some had only been in for a couple of years, but they were re-upping. Some of them had been to Iraq. Some of them had seen their fellow soldiers fallen to the ground injured or killed. Yet here they were raising their right hand and reenlisting in the U.S. Army.

I had the opportunity to visit with every single one of them, and for the most part, I asked the same question to each of them; and that is, Why are you doing this? Why are you reenlisting in the Army in these difficult times? I felt so great, No. 1, just to be in the presence of those true American heroes; but secondly, the response I got, in unison, from those individuals was that: I like my job. I enjoy what I am doing, and it is my opportunity to do something positive for America.

The ones who had been in Iraq had a very high morale about what is going on over there because they are the ones who were on the ground every day in Iraq. They know the feeling of the majority—the overwhelming majority—of the Iraqi people. They support the freedom and democracy that America is making the sacrifices for.

Some say this administration underestimated just how difficult and complex the job in Iraq would be. I will be honest, I have come to share that view. I think the administration would agree with that. But I believe, therefore, we

need to learn from our tactical mistakes, and to ensure that our posture in Iraq is flexible and can adapt to fluid and developing circumstances. If this means finding new ways to ensure Shiite grievances are heard, so be it, as the cooperation of the Shiite majority in the transition ahead is essential to that transition success. But the CPA must also respond aggressively to aggression of any kind that is directed against our troops.

In talking about what we anticipated or what the administration expected in Iraq, let's talk also about some of the things we did not expect. We did not expect for clerics in that part of the world to come forward, and instead of preaching religion that you would expect them to be preaching, to be preaching and advocating hatred and violence towards Americans—Americans, who had given them the opportunity to stand in that mosque and express the words they were expressing, because without the Americans taking down Saddam Hussein, they would not have that freedom, they would not have the ability to carry out their disruptions and the violence that is ongoing over there today.

But removed from that, and behind the cloud of those robes of religion, clerics are hiding, and they are also hiding behind innocent women and children and shielding themselves by use of innocent people from the Americans who seek to arrest and prosecute them for the crimes they have carried out. Those are the types of things that no administration could anticipate and no administration should have expected when we freed the people of Iraq from the regime of Saddam Hussein.

There is one other aspect of the situation in Iraq that is just as personally, if not more personally, troubling to me; and that is the issue relative to our lack of intelligence gathering, the lack of the ability to use human assets on the ground inside of Iraq, to make sure we find out what is going on among these radical clerics who are advocating violence; what is going on with respect to the terrorist community and the terrorists themselves relative to attacks against Americans; what is going on with respect to the long-term plans of these terrorists as it applies to the American service people, as well as civilians who are on the ground in Iraq.

We are not doing the job of gathering intelligence that we need to be doing. As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I assure you, we are doing our oversight. We are going to be critical where we need to be critical because this is a phase of this war that must improve. We are going to do our job and make it improve so the people of Iraq will ultimately be free, the world will be safer, and America will be a safer country.

I yield back, Mr. President.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PREGNANCY AND TRAUMA CARE ACCESS PROTECTION ACT OF 2004—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2207, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the bill (S. 2207) to improve women's access to health care services, and the access of all individuals to emergency and trauma care services, by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of such services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the next 2 hours shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we now return to the issue of how we make health care more affordable and accessible to the American people. This bill will try to reduce the liability, the insurance costs of doctors who deliver babies and doctors who work in emergency rooms, making the practice of those different disciplines more attractive to doctors and allowing, therefore, especially women who are having children more access to doctors. Especially in rural areas this is a huge problem because so many OB doctors have had to give up the practice of medicine because of the cost of their liability insurance. We return to that bill.

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But before we go on to that bill, I think it is important that we address other legislation that could also significantly reduce the cost of health care in this country and improve its delivery. One such piece of legislation has been reported out of the committee which I have the privilege to chair, which is the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. It was reported out unanimously—unanimously. It is the patient safety bill, and it basically is structured so that it does, for example, make information as to how errors occur within the medical profession more available within the medical profession so people in the medical profession can learn from these errors.

Today, regrettably, if you have an experience of doing a procedure inappropriately, having a medication which is inappropriately applied, or having an operating room that may not be set up correctly, and as a result errors result from that type of activity which lead to injury or problems for patients, that information is kept very close. It is not made available generally to the medical profession for the obvious reason that they will be sued.

What this bill does is essentially try to create a better atmosphere for allowing that information to be shared