

the treatment of acute care or injuries that may have occurred in the battlefield or the like. Prosthetics were made. I think they said 22 prosthetics had been made for the detainees who have been at the facility.

The nature of health care has shifted a bit. There is still acute care 24 hours a day, in which surgical procedures, everything, can be performed right there in the detainee camps, but as those wounds healed and as the detainees got further and further away from acute injuries, there has been increasing emphasis on preventative care. Indeed, the immunization rate there is higher than in the United States of America.

I think the report is they have had fewer than 500 detainees, but all have been immunized appropriately. Things such as screening for cancer have taken place there. Colonoscopies—a procedure which, as we all know, is used commonly in this country to screen for colon cancer—are performed there on a routine basis.

The health personnel-to-detainee ratio is 1 to 4—remarkably high. That is all health personnel who are there. And I guess, as I left this briefing and the opportunity to talk to the doctors and the nurses and the psychologists and the psychiatrists, I left with an impression that health care there is clearly better than they received at home and as good as many people receive in the United States of America.

Also, I have to comment on the courageous men and women who are our military personnel there, working every day, 24 hours a day. They are doing a tremendous job. I commend them for it. As you walk through the cells, it is clear they are at least verbally abused in just walking through those cells. I know they are under a great deal of stress in carrying out their activities every day.

Our men and women, in spite of that sort of verbal abuse—and clearly at risk of physical assault—remain focused on their mission to provide the detainees there safe and humane treatment but, at the same time, simultaneously protecting Americans from the deadly plots that have been hatched by many of those detainees who are there.

As we all know from the President's comments and speeches over the last week or so, on that island today are some of the world's most hardened enemy combatants, terrorists. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is there, the man the 9/11 Commission described as the "principal architect of the 9/11 attacks." The fact that we have the presence of them—we did not see them, we did not even ask to go to their facility—but the fact that they are there is a vivid reminder that the detainees at Guantanamo do remain locked up for a critical purpose: to protect Americans. We were reminded of that again and again as we listened to the stories about the backgrounds of the types of people who are there. I left there with no question in my mind that many would return to what they were doing

before they were captured; that is, plotting new ways to attack us. We know some who have been released have, indeed, returned to the battlefield. And that has been well documented.

There has been a lot of debate recently on how we should prosecute these terrorists, these enemy combatants. Soon we will be addressing that issue once again on the floor of the Senate, as we should. But I think we should all be very clear in our own thinking that these men are dangerous terrorists who remain a threat to the safety and well-being of every American. They are militant extremists whose goal in life is to kill Americans, is to destroy our freedom and security.

Mr. President, as we were reminded through remembrances and through the ceremonies of yesterday and through the discussions yesterday, 9/11 shattered our longstanding illusions of safety and security in this country. As we learned then and have since learned—on no less than 11 occasions—safety and security are not static states, but they are dynamic, they are constantly changing, in constant flux. That means we cannot just enact a bill and then move on and say that is sufficient. We have to continuously, in this body, take stock of where we are, assess and reassess and implement changes when necessary.

We have done just that over the last 5 years. As of August, we passed 71 laws and other bills related to the war on terror. The next step is the bill we are debating today; that is, the Port Security Improvement Act. It provides additional authorities and tools critical to improving our port security and our maritime security—and to foil plots to injure us or to destroy our ports, to the detriment of hard-working Americans and to the detriment of our economy.

Very soon we will take up legislation that strengthens and modernizes our foreign intelligence surveillance laws, as well as legislation that authorizes military commissions to prosecute terrorists for war crimes, such as those who are currently detained at Guantanamo Bay.

Without these tools, we simply cannot guarantee the safety and security of the American people. That is why they are being addressed on the floor right now. That is what hangs in the balance: the safety and security of the American people. On this floor, we are not going to always agree on the approach, but it is a goal I believe every one of my colleagues shares.

As we move forward in this body over the next couple weeks, I hope we do remain focused on that goal, ensuring the safety and security of the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

#### PRESIDENT'S 9/11 SPEECH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was honored to join with President Bush and others at the Pentagon yesterday to commemorate the fifth anniversary of 9/11. I was pleased, also to join my colleagues on the east steps of the Capitol last evening in an emotional tribute to those who died on that fateful day 5 years ago.

Mr. President, 9/11 was one of the darkest days of this Nation's history. It brought America together. We were inspired by the bravery of our fellow Americans. We stood shoulder to shoulder with the President. And when he stood upon the mound of rubble at Ground Zero, with a bullhorn in hand, he spoke for all of us.

Last night, however, the President, in his address to the Nation, spoke for himself, for his administration, and not for the Nation. No bullhorn, only the bully pulpit of his office, which he used to defend an unpopular war in Iraq and to launch clumsily disguised barbs at those who disagree with his policies.

By focusing on Iraq in the manner he did, the President engaged in an all-too-familiar Bush administration tactic: conflate and blur the war in Iraq with the response to 9/11.

Despite definitive and repeated findings that there were no ties between Iraq and al-Qaida—a finding most recently echoed by the Republican-controlled Senate Intelligence Committee—the President continued to deliberately lump and blur al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden, Iraq, and 9/11 together.

This is a political move designed to tap the overwhelming public sentiment to destroy al-Qaida as a way to bolster sagging public support for the war in Iraq.

Despite the President's best efforts, the American people can see through this ploy—as we have seen with the pundits' comments following his speech and editorials all across the country today. The American people understand that Iraq is largely a sectarian struggle and that the longer we are bogged down in the streets of Baghdad, the easier it is for al-Qaida and its affiliates to reconstitute in places such as Afghanistan and Somalia.

Americans understand that this administration's "stay the course" strategy is hurting our security and moving Iraq in the wrong direction. Unemployment in Iraq is high. It is 40 to 50 percent unemployment, at least. Some places, it is 70 and 80 percent.

News accounts today say that inflation is now 75 percent in Iraq. An average of a thousand Iraqis are dying each month in Iraq. Is that a civil war? I think so. News accounts, the last couple of days—one, in fact, today said: "Iraq conflict worsens." The General Accounting Office, the watchdog of Congress, a nonpartisan organization, said that the Iraq conflict worsens.

We heard two days ago an Army general saying that the Anbar province is lost. We have a general, even before he

is retired, saying that Secretary Rumsfeld said he would fire anyone who tried to develop a plan after the soldiers went into Iraq. He would fire them. There was no planning as to how the peace would take place.

The American people deserved better last night. They deserved a break from the politics that honored the spirit of 9/11, a chance to reclaim that sense of unity, purpose, and patriotism which swept through our country 5 years ago—feelings only the Commander in Chief could have inspired, that he should have tried to inspire. He didn't. Last night was not the time for a political partisan speech. Sadly, it was a missed opportunity for President Bush, who obviously was more consumed by staying the course in Iraq and playing election year partisan politics than changing the direction for this wonderful country.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for 30 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor in sadness. The President of the United States gives an address about the condition of our country 5 years after the events of 9/11. He gives an address and lays out the scope of the problem we are confronting. There are people all across this world who subscribe to a radical, perverted form of Islam and want to destroy everything we believe in. That is the enemy we are confronting. We are in an active war with our military against them in Afghanistan and Iraq. That is the reality.

The minority leader just referred to it as sectarian violence. What is that word? Religious? Religious violence. Radical Islam violence—some Sunni, some Shia, but both are radical in their nature, and they are fighting us. That is the reality of the enemy today. The very people who planned the attacks are the people who are in Iraq. Al-Qaida is in Iraq causing that sectarian violence. Should we ignore that? I ask the Senator from Nevada, should we just ignore that, pretend they are not there, not talk about that last night,

pretend al-Qaida is not in Iraq? Is this not part of the mission we are trying to accomplish?

It is sad. We are at war against an enemy that I happen to believe is the most dangerous enemy ever to confront this country, and we play petty politics constantly here on the floor of the Senate—even after a solemn day of remembrance for the valued people who died on September 11. It is chilling. We just cannot get past the politics around here, just cannot get past the partisan advantage around here. We cannot face the reality that we have a dangerous enemy out there who wants to destroy everything we hold dear, an enemy who is very clear about what they want to accomplish. How clear? They say it—not to Mike Wallace on “60 Minutes,” I might add. No, when you are spinning in English in America, you put on the nice face, you put on the happy face that we want peace and want to live together in brotherhood and all this wonderful stuff.

But that is a lie. When they go back and speak in Arabic and Farsi, they give a very different story. It is a consistent story, I might add. It is the destruction of the State of Israel, and it is the submission of the infidels to what they believe in. That is the enemy we confront. It is real. We can play politics about it and say it is not real. We can say it is a trumped-up war. They are at war with us. We may not want to be at war with them, but they are at war with us—not just in Afghanistan and Iraq, not just in southern Lebanon, not just in Great Britain, but here. They want to defeat us. Their intent is to defeat us. They are motivating people in the Middle East and around the world to join their ranks and attack us.

One of the things I learned from my days in Little League, and in everything else I have ever engaged in, is that one of the ways to lose anything you are engaged in with an opponent is not to take your opponent seriously, not to look at what they are really about, and not look at their capability. I remember early that in this war many were calling the terrorists cowards, as if these people were weak and they had no real resolve. These people are not weak. They are misguided—horribly misguided—but they are not weak. They are a dangerous enemy. They are a dangerous enemy that has an ideology that is motivating people, and they have a tactic that is uniquely effective against us.

As Osama bin Laden says, “We will defeat you because you love life; we love death.” And we do love life in this country because we have a lot to live for. We have great freedom, great material wealth. We have a wonderful culture. They, on the other hand, for the most part have none of those. They love death because they see death as better than life. They are willing to die. In fact, they want to die. We have never fought an enemy like this. We have never fought an enemy who want-

ed to die as part of the victory for them. We always fought enemies who saw death as a tragic consequence of war, and their objective was an earthly kingdom. Not this enemy. This enemy says death is part of the war—a desire for those entering into this battle—and their kingdom is not one they want to build here but one they want to achieve after death. This is an enemy who wants a nuclear weapon in Iran, not because they want to stave off attacks, no, but because they want to use it to pursue their messianic vision of the return of the 12th Imam, or Hidden Imam.

I give speeches all across Pennsylvania and lay out for the people of my State this vision of President Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad and the rulers of Iran, the vision of the 12th, or Hidden, Imam, who is to return at the end of time. That is what the Shias believe. But President Ahmadi-Nejad and the rulers of Iran believe different than most Shias, thank God. They believe it is their obligation to bring about the end of time by the destruction of the State of Israel and by world chaos in which Islam is suppressing the infidels, and only at that time will this Hidden Imam return and the actualization of their religion come to pass.

This is a serious enemy, an enemy with resources. This is an enemy with growing technology, and this is an enemy with fervent disciples who are willing to go around and kill themselves in pursuit of this objective. This is not something to be played politics with. This is not something to ignore and pass off as sectarian violence that we brought about because we happen to be there. These people have been at war with us for 20 years, and we have chosen to ignore them. We paid a very high price.

So what is our lesson? If you listen to the Democratic leader, it is: Let's continue to ignore them. Let's continue to play politics. Let's put domestic politics ahead of the security of this country.

That is his message—that this is not real, this is trumped up, and if we leave them alone, they will leave us alone. Oh, really? Do you really believe that? If we leave these people alone, do you believe that somehow we would be safe here? We can just garrison America, make all public buildings like we have here at the Capitol—put Jersey barriers around everything and have police on every corner. We can protect ourselves from these people. Is that the America in which we want to live? Not me.

We are at war—the most serious war this country has ever faced against an opponent like none we have ever faced. Yet we play politics. We ignore the reality. We can pretend they are just not there—at least until November, at least until we can get control. Then maybe we will come to our senses and recognize the grave threat that confronts our country.

No, the President did not give a political speech last night. He spoke of