should not be too much longer. It would be my desire, once we get that unanimous consent, to go out for the day.

Just as soon as that occurs, we will then be prepared to take final action for the day.

Until that time, I have a couple of remarks in regard to the important legislation that passed this morning.

USE OF FORCE TO DEFEND AMERICA AGAINST TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we are now learning that the terrorists who attacked our Nation this week may have been planning their hideous crimes for years.

In their evil and painstaking calculations, the terrorists clearly tried to anticipate every possible obstacle they might encounter.

But there is one obstacle they overlooked; that is, the courage of the American people, and our fierce determination to defend the people and values we cherish.

It was that courage and determination that appears to have given the passengers aboard the plane that crashed near Pittsburgh the strength to resist their murderers and prevent an even greater tragedy.

It is that same courage and determination that is at the heart of this resolution we pass today.

Tuesday, from the window of my office in the Capitol, I watched thick black smoke rise from the Pentagon and fill the sky over Arlington Cemetery.

The graves in that hallowed ground remind us that Americans have faced great evil before and defeated it.

By passing this resolution, we are saying that the Congress of the United States—Democrats and Republicans stand with the President as our Commander in Chief.

We are authorizing the President to use force against the terrorists who attacked America on September 11, and any nation, organization, or person that aids or harbors them.

As a result of our actions today, we know that our men and women in uniform may be forced to confront a new kind of enemy—an enemy whose actions are constrained neither by conscience, nor the rules of war.

We also know that whatever they are called to do, they will do it well and with honor. And we know this: They will prevail.

This is the gravest responsibility we can undertake as elected leaders.

That is why our Constitution calls on the President and the Congress to act together on decisions to employ our armed forces to defend our Nation.

By passing this resolution, we reaffirm our belief in our Constitution as the foundation and strength of our democracy.

By providing specific statutory authorization and by requiring continuing consultation between the President and the Congress, we also underscore the importance of the War Powers Resolution. Only by standing together, can we stand strong and defeat this threat.

As I have said before, what happened on Tuesday was not simply an attack against America. It was a crime against democracy, and decency. It was a crime against civilization itself.

Americans have been deeply touched this week by the support we have received from friends throughout the world. From the gates of Buckingham Palace, to the halls of the United Nations and NATO, to the streets of Moscow and beyond, the grief displayed by our friends has helped to make our own grief more bearable.

We thank the family of nations for standing with us in these early days of this battle against terrorism. Even more, we thank them for their commitment to stand with us in the days ahead.

I am confident we will continue to stand together, and defeat this most insidious of threats, wherever and whenever it arises.

We will be Resolute in the defense of our ideals. We will make whatever material or physical sacrifice that is required of us to punish those who attacked our nation, and to prevent future attacks.

But we will not sacrifice the ideals that built this nation and have sustained us for more than two centuries.

Just as we are united against the terrorists and their co-conspirators who carried out the attacks on our nation, we must also be united against acts of hate against innocent Arab-Americans and Muslims.

The madmen who carried out these crimes despise our values of liberty and justice for all.

By maintaining our commitment to those ideals now, we send a powerful message to those who committed this evil that they have not won, and they will not win this war. They have broken our hearts, but not our will.

The terrorists hoped to bring us to our knees. Let us defy them by standing together on our feet as one nation, indivisible.

Yes, we saw evil this week. But we have also seen great strength. We have seen it in the heroic men and women working day and night in the wreckage of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

We have seen it in the countless Americans in cities across the country who waited hours to donate blood.

And we have seen it in the men and women who may have prevented even greater destruction through their bravery aboard that doomed flight.

That is the strength of America—the one obstacle the terrorists did not anticipate, and the one that will be their undoing.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMERICA UNITED

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, at midday today I attended the prayer service at the National Cathedral which President Bush called. It was attended by President Bush and four former Presidents, and many Americans, of course.

And I think millions of Americans watched on television. It was a remarkable, moving, and emotional prayer service.

As I sat in the prayer service, I thought about something that happened yesterday as I toured the damage to the Pentagon with my colleagues, Senator DASCHLE, Senator REID, and others. Yesterday, we were touring the Pentagon where, of course, many Americans died as a result of an airplane, loaded with jet fuel and commercial passengers, which was flown by a terrorist into the Pentagon and caused a fire and collapse and so much damage.

Yesterday, as we were being briefed at the Pentagon about the damage that was caused and the loss of life, my colleague, Senator REID, will remember that there was a crane near the building. The crane had a long steel cable attached to it. On the end of the steel cable was one of these little baskets. There was a man standing in the basket in uniform. The crane hauled this basket up to the fourth floor of this gaping wound in the middle of the Pentagon building. This man, who is a soldier, reached around from this basket deep into the hole of the Pentagon building, and from outside of this hole he pulled out a red and gold flag. He put it into this basket, again, dangling from a crane. They brought him back to the ground. It turned out he had pulled out of this gaping hole in this burned-out structure at the Pentagon a U.S. Marine flag that had for some reason not burned. It appeared to be the only flag that did not have possibly burned in that entire area.

This young Marine, who grabbed this U.S. Marine Corps flag—this beautiful gold and red flag—marched over to where we were, and he stopped and said he was taking this flag to the U.S. Marine Corps Commandant.

He said he saw the flag as he looked through the wreckage on the fourth
floor in an office, and miraculously this flag had not burned. He wanted to get to it, so he got somebody to take him up in a crane in a basket, and he retrieved it and brought it away.

As he held this flag proudly, on his way to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, he said to us: They couldn’t destroy this flag, and they can’t destroy this country. And I thought, wow, what a thing to say. Perhaps we can never make certain that we will never see a terrorist act again. Perhaps we can never do that. We can certainly exert all the energy and all the genius available to all of us in this country to take the steps we think can try to prevent these acts again.

But notwithstanding the challenges and the tragedies, and notwithstanding the common grief that was born of these evil acts, this country will remain a free country. We will remain a country of which all of us are enormously proud.

There is a spirit about America: A spirit to prevail, a spirit to build, a spirit to come together. It is reflected by a lot of things, a couple of which I just mentioned. And that spirit is, in my judgment, not dimming; that spirit is growing. In the coming weeks and days, I think manifested today on the floor of the Senate, that spirit will nurture all of America.

Today, on the floor of the Senate, we passed a piece of legislation, without a dissenting vote, that said we want to help people in need. We provided the resources to say to the people who were victims of this: You are not alone. Your families are not alone. Your loved ones are not alone. Your cities are not alone. And then we passed, without a dissenting vote, an authorization to the President, who asked for an authorization from Congress, to be able to take actions against those who committed these evil acts.

Without a dissenting vote, the Congress said to the President: Yes, we are with you. That is quite a remarkable thing to have done. And it reflects a spirit not just here in the Senate; it reflects a spirit, in my judgment, borne in the breast of every American today, proud to be an American, and determined to make sure we are able to retain and nurture this way of life, to defeat terrorism wherever it exists, and to nurture freedom and liberty.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER, the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hesitate to interrupt you, but I want to bring to your attention that we are going out today because I think the tone has been set by my friend from North Dakota, but I just say that there are so many examples of people coming together. The example of the blood drives is certainly one of the most appropriate.

People are now all over America in reservation lines. They are there to sign up to give blood 2 weeks from now, 3 weeks from now because the lines are so long.

I think my friend from North Dakota would agree that the prayer service held today at the National Cathedral was touched. I think everyone there participated with the prayers. Billy Graham gave some remarks. He has been an adviser to many Presidents over the years, and even though his body is frail, his mind certainly is not.

I hope all Americans will realize that the President of the United States needs everyone’s prayers now. There are 335 Members of Congress. I was able to sit with Senator Dorgan today at the prayer service at the National Cathedral. We were together. And that is what we legislatures are; we are together; we are always with each other. But the President of the United States is alone. He does not have people to lean on. He has to make decisions by himself.

So I hope that everyone will be involved in praying for this President, recognizing the tremendous burdens he has and the decisions he has to make, decisions that are so vitally important to the virtual freedom of this country, matters dealing with life and death.

So I do hope people will join together and have continual prayers for this country and the President of the United States.

THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of all Senators, I express my appreciation to the Presiding Officer. It is a real sacrifice to be here on a Friday afternoon, where there isn’t a lot going on on the floor, but there were things that had to be done. Of course, the Senator from Vermont is known for his patience. And here is another example of it.

So on behalf of all Senators, thank you very much for your time and for the many hours this afternoon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2590

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday at 10 a.m. the Appropriations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2590, the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Bill, and the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my hope that the Senate will be in a position to consider the authorization bill next week. The majority leader will be consulting with the Republican leader as to its scheduling.