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 to confront evil again and to defeat it again.

We call upon 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 pursue this the hardest, because this is the gravest responsibility we have ever faced.

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 midnight 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 item that could 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 up on the fourth