because—and I am not putting words in anybody’s mouth; and I do not do damage to the truth; I have too much respect for people, even when we disagree. I have said—they have not been jingoistic; and they have not said we need to bomb now—we need to do this the right away. Many of them have expressed concern that we not let terrorists define our morality and that we should take every step possible to minimize the loss of life of innocent civilians in Afghanistan, or any other country, starting with innocent children. I am proud of people in Minnesota for saying that.

People in Minnesota have also said they understand this is not going to be one military action. They know this is going to be a long struggle. They know we are going to need a lot of cooperation from a lot of other countries. They think it should be international.

Above and beyond the way people come together to support each other, I am so impressed with the way I think people are really thinking deeply about this and want us to stay consistent with our own values as a nation. I just want to say that. That is my view.

I find myself kind of on two ends of the spectrum. I had a discussion with some friends who were telling me that I should speak out more about the underlying conditions and causes of this violence, this hatred and violence. I told them there is a divide between us because I cannot do that because there are no conditions or explanations or justification for the mass murder of innocent people. I do not even like to talk about war because I do not think war is a solution. Warriors are not involved in the slaughter of innocent people; criminals are.

A second point, which now gets closer to the defense authorization bill: On economic recovery, we have to really focus on economic security. I believe, and will always believe, we should have included assistance for employees in the package we passed last Friday.

I say to the Senator from Massachusetts, when I went home to Minnesota, I heard about that. People were not at all angry, but they said: How could that happen to us and our families who are out of work? That has to be a priority, along with safety, to get help to employees.

I would argue, maybe it is a sequence, maybe it is everything at one time. It is easier to give a speech than to actually do it. But above and beyond help for employees and employment benefits and making sure people can afford health care needs and making sure there is job training and dislocated worker funding and, I would argue, having to deal with some child care expenses, I want to say one other thing. The truth is, I think we have to also think about an economic recovery package. And that should include, I say to Senator Levin from New Jersey, a workforce recovery package because not only are we going to need to extend the lifeline to people by way of helping them—when people are flat on their back, Government helps them; that is a provision in this bill. I also think that that is part of an economic stimulus because you do not want to have a lot of people—people who work in hotels and restaurants and small businesses, all of whom now are really hurting—you do not want to have a whole lot of people shut down and not able to consume at all.

So we need to think about this package in broader terms as well. Finally, on the defense authorization bill, if I had my own way, there are at least a lot more people who are getting in it. One of them Senator Levin worked so hard on, and other colleagues support it. It made it clear that if President Bush requested funding for missile defense tests that violated the ABM Treaty, he would need congressional approval to spend those funds. I wanted that language in this bill in the worst way. If I had time, I would argue over and over again, but I don’t want to impose my own agenda on what our country is facing right now. But we need to reorder some of our priorities, and clearly more of the money—some of the money in this bill that I don’t think we need for certain items I would put into homeland defense and helping families with economic security.

I think there are a lot of threats our country is faced with that come way before a rogue nation sending missiles our way by suitcase, by boat, by plane, chemical, biological—there are lots of other threats with a much higher priority. I do not speak that language. I understand that the majority leader and Senator Levin and others made a commitment that we will come back to that language and that provision.

I believe missile defense doesn’t make the world more secure; it makes it less secure for our children, grandchildren, and for all God’s children. I could argue that for the next 5 hours. I don’t have 5 hours.

I congratulate Senators on both sides of the aisle for the way in which we have worked together. We probably need each other as never before. There will be some sharp disagreement on policy issues—some of the issues that deal with education and health care, government services, interstate commerce. Frankly, I am sure there will be questions on the role of the military. I want to just dissent on missile defense and say to my colleagues we need to get back to that debate. I think we are going to have to see more of an emphasis on priorities, including some of the money from some weapons systems that are not necessary to what we are talking about now by way of our own national security and homeland defense.

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I was unable to be here for an earlier vote today. I was at the funeral of a brave American, Aerographer’s Mate Second Class Matthew Michael Flocco, whose life was one of those so tragically ended at the Pentagon on September 11. I believed it was important to be there with the family, to make sure they knew that America shares in their grief and stands ready to assist them in any way we can.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BENNETT. Madam President, yesterday Senator Kyl and I introduced the Critical Infrastructure Information Security Act, CIISA, which is designed to minimize a dangerous national security blind spot by: one, protecting voluntarily shared critical infrastructure information; two, providing critical infrastructure threat analysis; and three, encouraging proactive industry cooperation.

Critical infrastructures are those key sectors such as financial services, telecommunications, transportation, energy, emergency services, and government essential services, whose disruption or destruction would impact our economic or national security. On September 11, 2001, America suffered a senseless strike, where America’s commercial air space was “weaponized” and turned viciously against its financial and defense establishments in an infrastructure attack that resulted in staggering losses.

About 85 percent of the United States’ critical infrastructures, telecommunications, energy, finance, and