In conclusion, we do not want to drive this industry off the shores of our Nation to other places in the world. We need to maintain our industry here for economic as well as national security reasons.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment. With all due respect to my good friend, the Senator from Florida, this is not the right direction in which to lead our Nation.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this is not related to the issue at hand, although I want to speak on that under whatever time I am yielded. This is under leader time on a resolution. I believe Senator Daschle will be joining me momentarily. We want to be sure to do this when we both can be here.

COMMENDING GARY SISCO FOR HIS SERVICE AS SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 127, which is at the desk, and ask that the resolution be read in total.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 127) commending Gary Sisco for his service as Secretary of the Senate:

S. Res. 127

Whereas, Gary Sisco faithfully served the Senate of the United States as the 29th Secretary of the Senate from the 104th to the 107th Congress, and discharged the difficult duties and responsibilities of that office with unfailing dedication and a high degree of competence and efficiency; and

Whereas, as an elected officer, Gary Sisco has upheld the high standards and traditions of the United States Senate and extended his assistance to all Members of the Senate; and

Whereas, through his exceptional service and professional integrity as an officer of the Senate of the United States, Gary Sisco has earned the respect, trust, and gratitude of the Senate, people such as the Secretary of the Senate, Gary Sisco, the Sergeant at Arms, the Chaplain, and others who work every day to help make this place function.

I have a very personal warm feeling for Gary Sisco. He is from Tennessee. He was born in Bolivar, TN, a small town. He grew up in strictly a blue-collar family. I believe his father did serve for a period of time as sheriff in that county in Tennessee.

I got to know him way back in 1963 at the University of Mississippi. We became friends. I managed to even talk him into joining the fraternity to which I belonged. We developed a very close friendship.

He wound up having a blind date with his now wife, thanks to the arrangement of my wife, Mary Sue Sisco. He proposed to Mary Sue, and there was no way I was going to let him get away with that, so I appointed him as my administrative assistant. He worked for Howard Baker reaching the position of executive assistant. He then returned to Tennessee and had a very successful business life.

Five years ago, I called on him and said: We need somebody who understands computers, somebody who understands how to manage a pretty good size operation, somebody who knows how to keep the books straight, somebody who has political instinct and knows and loves the Senate. You are the man.

He left his business in Nashville, TN, and came to Washington and has been in the position of Secretary of the Senate for 5 years. He has done a wonderful job.

The only thing I ever asked of him was: Gary, we have a few things that need to be changed, need to be approved, let's just make sure when you get to this position I am in, it is better than it was when we got here.

I believe Gary Sisco has achieved that goal. To show you the kind of man he is, Senator Daschle had agreed, frankly, that the officers of the Senate should stay on through this session of Congress even though the majority might change. So I know he would have kept his word and Gary could have stayed, but he submitted his resignation, and I agreed that I think the majority leader should have officers of the Senate of his selection. It was the right thing to do, but it was his idea; it was not mine.

Senator Daschle has been very gracious in the way he has treated the employees in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate. He has selected an outstanding, capable, experienced person and one who also understands the Senate very well. Jeri Thomson. I know she will continue the great legacy Gary Sisco has built.

To my colleagues in the Senate, I thank them all for the courtesies and support they have given to Gary Sisco, and I wish my friend the very best in his next career.

Some of us, as Senator Daschle and myself, have given our careers to this Congress, many, many years now, in my case 28 years. I have to confess, in a way, I am a little envious of a guy who was in the business sector, in the political arena, in the congressional arena, back in the business world, back in the Senate arena, and is now going out to the next stage of his life. I am sure it will be an outstanding one.

I, again, extend my best wishes to Gary Sisco, his wife Mary Sue, and their children. I know they will always have a special feeling in their hearts for the Senate, and I believe the Senate also has that feeling for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, first, I compliment the distinguished minority leader on his remarks. I appreciate very much the opportunity to address the resolution this afternoon.

Five years ago, Gary Sisco came to Washington and came to this job as Secretary of the Senate with the full confidence of then-majority leader Trent Lott. Today he leaves the Senate, leaves his job as Secretary of the Senate, having earned the full confidence of now-majority leader Tom Daschle.

That did not just happen because he had the title. It happened because he worked at it. It happened because, in spite of the long tradition that he had of working for very able Members of the Senate on the Republican side in the Senate and the House and Governor, he came leaving his Republican credentials at home. He came working with us as Democrats and Republicans, serving his country and serving this institution as ably as anyone can.

As Senator Lott has noted, the mark of a good and able public servant is one who leaves his job in a better position.
Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise to speak against the pending amendment. My question is, if we are not going to have exploration in the Gulf of Mexico in a limited area for oil and gas, where are we going to do it? Not in the Atlantic along the coast. Not in the Pacific along the coast. Some people say not in Alaska in the area that has been pur-

ased. Then I believe we can do it effectively, efficiently, responsibly, and productively in the Gulf of Mexico.

For years, exploration in the gulf and, in fact, drilling activity occurred primarily in Texas and Louisiana wa-
ters. Then in more recent years it has moved over under Mississippi and Ala-

bama. It has been very productive.

This is an interesting map to which others have referred. The Florida coastline goes to Pensacola, Alabama with Mobile, Biloxi, and New Orleans. I live right here; that is where my house sits. I can step off my front porch and put a rock in the Gulf of Mexico. I can sit out on my front porch and I can see a natural gas well working right in this area. In the daytime you can see it. It is clear. And at night sometimes they flare it off. It has never been a problem and it is producing natural gas. As a matter of fact, it is closer to my front doorstep, literally, than it is to Pan-

ama City, Florida, or Pensacola, or Bil-

oxi. I feel perfectly comfortable with this. There is no risk.

Those who live in the gulf area know that some of the most effective drilling and exploration drilling anywhere in the world is done in the gulf. It has be-

come more efficient, with greater accu-

racy. If there has ever been a spill in the gulf, it must have been very minor and certainly never affected my State, I don’t believe, since we have had the drilling off the coast of Alabama and Mississippi. I don’t believe we have ever had one.

It also is a wonderful place to fish around the oil rigs. We take old liberty ships out and sink them in the gulf so they will form fishing mounts. It is very effective. The rig serves the same purpose.

But now we have people who say we should not have it in the Gulf of Mex-

ico, or we should delay it even further, even though there has been a com-

promise. I think this whole area should be opened up for lease. But now it is down to just this green area, a very small area. The Governors of the States that are involved—Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and I believe this compromise provision is supported every-where. It is a great offer all of our leaders with all of the people who live in this area support this.

What are we going to do? We are de-

pending on foreign oil for 56 percent of our energy needs, and it is going up. It will be 60 percent. Can we get every-thing we need just from wind and sun? If we triple what we got from those areas, it wouldn’t get us at 6 percent. As I said before, maybe we will have to harness some of the speeches around here to produce more energy needs in this country. But we need exploration for oil and gas. We need to look at greater use of nuclear power. We need to take advantage of clean coal tech-

nology. We do need alternative sources of energy—wind, solar, hydro. We need to encourage and manage conservation. But we need a na-
tional energy policy—the whole thing, the whole package, so that we will not be in danger of the threat of OPEC countries saying they will cut us off. By the way, every time we have a de-

cline or some sort of a threat from OPEC countries, we get oil out of the SPR. Where do you think the SPR is, the strategic petroleum? I think most of it is in Texas and Louisiana.

Now people are saying, well, in south Florida, let’s build a 1.6 billion pipeline from my hometown and from Mobile, AL, across the Gulf of Mexico into Florida and supply their energy needs. We are supposed to take the risk in those areas of the exploration and the drilling for natural gas, and of course, sometimes for oil, and now we are going to build this pipeline and lay it across the Gulf of Mexico to supply the natural gas for people who say they don’t want us to explore and produce. That’s a no go.

The people have to decide. Are we going to continue to go down this trail of not producing for our energy needs? Are we going to have this national se-

curity risk, facing the danger of loss of freedom in America? Who thinks gasoline prices will not go up again next summer? They are. And so will diesel fuel prices. The families won’t be able to afford to drive to their vacation spots. The small business man and woman are going to have to pay their electricity bills. The farmers will have difficulty paying for the cost of diesel fuel for their tractors. It will ripple through the economy.

This is probably the most serious problem this country faces today. Meanwhile, we fiddle in Washington while the country has a heat stroke and is threatened with not having the energy to keep the economy growing. I think the American people realize that this is a very serious problem. Some people shy away from calling it a crisis, OK, don’t use that word. There is no immi-

dent danger now. But there could be tomorrow, there could be next week.