

resolve. And that's the way we should respond to problems here at home as well. We ought to come together to do the right thing. We need to focus on asking the question, what's the best thing for America? It's time to take the spirit of unity that has been prevalent when it comes to fighting the war and bring it to Washington, DC.

The terrorists not only attacked our freedom, but they also attacked our economy. And we need to respond in unison. We ought not to revert to the old ways that used to dominate Washington, DC. The old ways is, "What's more important, the country or my political party?" I stand here as a proud party man, but let me tell you something: The country is far more important than the—[*applause*].

We've made some good progress about working together. I'm getting ready to sign an education bill next week. It's a really good piece of legislation. I'm real proud of it. I want to thank the teachers who are here and the people who are concerned about educating our—making sure our public schools are the best they can be. And by the way, the cornerstone of that bill is that every child can learn—every child in America.

And a lot of my friends in Midland, Texas, are going to be amazed when I stand up and say nice things about Ted Kennedy. [*Laughter*] He deserves it. He worked hard on this education bill. And I can proudly sign it, and I can proudly say I appreciate Senator Kennedy's strong work and input into making this bill a good bill.

But there are troubling signs that the old way is beginning to creep into the people's minds in Washington. After all, it's an election year. It's tempting to revert back to the old ways. But America is better than that. We're better than that.

This economic debate is troubling me. You see, I'm the kind of fellow who says, "Let's work together and focus on results, not rhetoric. Let's do what's right for the people who have been hurt. We need to

work and then share credit, not pass blame."

And there is no question that the attacks of September the 11th hurt our economy. I mean, there's no question about it. It was slow beginning last year; it started to recover a little bit; and then the attacks hurt. I mean, after all, who wouldn't think it would? The attacks affected the confidence of the American people. It affected our psychology. It makes sense that it affected our psychology.

But we're recovering. And there are some good signs. But my attitude is, so long as any willing and able worker can't find work, we need to do something about it. The unemployment rate is 5.8 percent, but if you're unemployed, it's 100 percent for you.

The principle I have been operating on is this: In tough times, people need a check to help them when they're unemployed, but what they need for the long term is a paycheck. And we ought to be asking the question, how do you create jobs in America?

I do think we need to help those who have been affected by the attacks by expanding unemployment benefits, including help with health care costs. I think that makes sense, to help somebody whose life was severely affected, and we ought to do that, and we ought to make sure that we get that done. But I also understand that we need to ask the question, how do we expand jobs? What can we do to encourage investment so that employers are able to go out and provide more work for American people?

I had the honor of meeting with JCM Corporation officials today. [*Applause*] As you can tell, they're here. [*Laughter*] Carlo Moyano—his daddy started the firm; he's now running it. I'm going to get it mixed up, but they had 10,000 square foot of warehouse; now they've got hundreds of thousands of square foot of warehouse. He's living the American Dream. This is a company that started in a garage. It's