

While some have asserted that the president and his senior advisers may have exaggerated or manipulated prewar intelligence on Iraq's WMD programs, Dr. Kay reached the following conclusion, which I think is different.

As you stated recently, quote, "We have to remember that this view of Iraq (prewar assessment of WMD capabilities) was held during the Clinton administration and did not change in the Bush administration. It is not a political got-you issue. Often estimates are different than reality. The important thing is when they differ to understand why," end quote.

That's precisely why I called this meeting, Dr. Kay, to continue the work of this committee in developing a body of fact from which reasonable people, at the conclusion of that collection of facts, can reach their own objective thoughts and conclusions. It's been a difficult process but the ISG work is not completed.

Now, you have stated that you believe there did not exist large stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons. But I hope that you will, in your testimony, indicate that since work is not completed, since Iraq is as big as California and Baghdad approximates the sprawling territory of Los Angeles, that we could find caches and reserves of weapons of mass destruction, chemical or biological or even further evidence about their nuclear program.

WARNER: We also would hope that you'd address the question of whether or not Saddam Hussein had some kind of, quote, "breakout capability" for quickly producing chemical or biological weapons, and was this not a basis for constituting a conclusion that there was an imminent threat from Saddam Hussein and his military?

Why were the Iraq WMD records systematically looted or destroyed? And why do scientists in custody today continue not to be forthcoming if there was nothing to hide or nothing substantial existed?

The work of the Iraq Survey Group has shown that Saddam Hussein had WMD intentions, had WMD programs that did survive, and did outwit for 12 years the United Nations Security Council and the resolutions—indeed, the inspections, in large measure.

If ultimately, the findings of the Iraq Survey Group do differ from the prewar assessments of our intelligence community, differ from assessments of the United Nations, differ from assessments of intelligence services of many other nations, indeed that is cause for concern. But we are not there yet in terms of the totality of fact on which to draw such serious conclusions.

Today and tomorrow, our policy-makers must be able to rely on the intelligence they are provided. The safety and security of the men and women of the armed forces are dependent on intelligence and, indeed, the security of our Nation.

So collectively, all of us—the Congress, the executive branch and other nations—we must vigorously continue to pursue the collection of the facts, as the ISC is doing, and upon that completion, then draw our conclusions and take such corrective measures as may be necessary.

WARNER: As we speak, over 1,400 individuals—military and civilian—are on the ground in Iraq seeking the facts about Iraq's WMD programs. I have confidence in the commitment and the ability of General Dayton, Mr. Duelfer, your successor, and representatives from our coalition partners to complete this mission. They have some of the best and brightest of our military and our intelligence community to complete this task. And Congress has provided the necessary means, a very substantial appropriation of recent.

We remain committed to providing the resources that are necessary for the completion of the ISG work.

Dr. Kay, I thank you for your public service once again.

BELARUSIAN AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO STIFLE DEMOCRACY

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I want to update colleagues on developments in the Republic of Belarus, a country with the poorest human rights record of any country in Europe today. In the last year, Belarusian dictator Lukashenka's assault on civil society has steadily intensified, with the liquidation of NGOs, violence against opposition activists, and repression of the independent media and trade unions. The situation in Belarus continues its downward spiral with daily reports of growing repression and new human rights violations.

Since the beginning of the still relatively new year, NGOs such as the Belarusian Language Society and the Belarusian Helsinki Committee have stepped up harassment. The Minsk City Court has ordered the liquidation of the Independent Association of Legal Research. Leaders of the opposition "Five Plus" bloc, who are in Washington this week, were recently detained and searched by customs officials at the Polish-Belarusian border. The officials were reportedly looking for printed, audio or video materials that could "damage the political and economic interests of the country." Human rights activists or independent journalists such as Natalya Kolyada, Nina Davydovskaya, Iryna Makavetskaya, Aksana Novikava and Aleksandr Silitsky continue to be subjected to threats, detentions or heavy fines. Others, including activists of the youth group ZUBR, have been arrested for holding an unauthorized picket demanding a thorough investigation of the disappearances of three democratic opposition members Yuri Zakharenka, Victor Gonchar, Anatoly Krasovskiy, and journalist Dmitri Zavadsky.

Independent media outlets also continue to feel the wrath of the powers that be, including libel proceedings against Narodnaya Volya, Belarus' largest independent daily; the confiscation of Asambleya, a bulletin of the Assembly of the Belarusian Democratic NGOs; the refusal by the Belarusian Postal Service to distribute the independent newspaper Regionalniye Novosti; the confiscation of copies, in the town of Smorgon, of the independent newspaper, Mestnaya Gazeta; and the censoring of the independent newspaper Volnaya Hlybokaye in the Vitebsk region. Several Jewish cemeteries are being destroyed, Baptist congregations are being fined and Krishna followers detained.

In an unusual step, the International Labor Organization, ILO, has established a commission of inquiry—only

the eleventh time in the body's 84-year history—to examine violations of trade union rights in Belarus. Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights unanimously ratified a report on political disappearances in Belarus. The just-released report severely criticizes the Belarusian authorities, stating that "steps were taken at the highest level of the State actively to cover up the . . . disappearances" of several high-profile members of the opposition in 1999 to 2000 and that senior Belarusian officials may be involved.

Last year I introduced the Belarus Democracy Act of 2003, S. 700, which is designed to help promote democratic development, human rights and rule of law in the Republic of Belarus, as well as encourage the consolidation and strengthening of Belarus' sovereignty and independence.

While some might be tempted to dismiss Belarus as an anomaly, the stakes are too high and the costs too great to ignore. It is important for us to stay the course and support Belarus in becoming a genuine European state, in which respect for human rights and democracy is the norm and in which the long-suffering Belarusian people are able to overcome the legacy of dictatorship—past and present. The Belarus Democracy Act—which enjoys bipartisan support—is an important, concrete way to exhibit our support. I urge colleagues to support this measure and look forward to timely consideration of the Belarus Democracy Act.

AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN COLOMBIA

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it has been almost a year since three Americans—Marc Gonsalves, Keith Stansell, and Thomas Howes—were taken hostage by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC. The presence of American hostages in Colombia is deeply troubling, and one can only imagine the struggles and trials that these three brave individuals have had to endure since their plane crashed in the Colombian jungle last year on February 13. I rise today to again call attention to their plight and urge the Bush administration and Colombian Government to do everything possible to gain their release.

There is no higher priority than finding a way to bring these three Americans home safely, and I know that all of our prayers remain with them and their families during these difficult times. For the families of Marc, Keith, and Tom, this past year has been a heart wrenching experience. I have a special interest in the fate of Marc Gonsalves, whose mother, Jo Rosano, is a Connecticut resident. Marc's father, George Gonsavales, is also a resident of our State.

At every opportunity, I have worked to bring about the release of these three Americans. Indeed, over the last

8 months whenever I have met with Colombian President Uribe or other Colombian officials, I have urged them to make every effort to gain their release. President Uribe indicated to me that the Colombian military continues every day to search for them and that these efforts will not cease until they are found.

In addition, during a hearing last fall of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I urged the now-serving United States Ambassador to Colombia, William Wood, to make their rescue his highest priority. He pledged to do so and has kept me informed of developments in this matter. I have also continually urged the Bush administration to provide all means of assistance, including technological assistance, to bring about the safe rescue of Marc, Keith, and Tom. It is my understanding that the administration continues to work with Colombian authorities to locate them.

Certainly, their rescue will not be easy. However, I have to believe that more can be done. This must be the highest of priorities. The airing last year of the videotape showing them in captivity only further highlights the importance of this effort.

The families of Marc, Keith, and Tom will find no rest until their sons, husbands, fathers, and brothers return home safely. I will be meeting with Jo Rosano tomorrow, when she, along with other family members of the hostages, come to Washington, DC on the anniversary of this tragic incident to urge United States policymakers not to forget their family members in captivity.

And I will tell her what I have said here today: that we must make every effort and we must leave no stone unturned in our search. As Americans, Marc, Keith, and Tom are also our sons—they are members of our extended American family. For my part, I pledge to continue to do everything possible to ensure their speedy release and safe return. I urge the Bush administration and Colombian Government to do the same. We must not rest until they are all home safely.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

One such crime occurred in Honolulu, HI, in August 1998. A heterosexual man was found dead in a public shower. He had been brutally killed by a group of teenagers because they thought he was gay.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can

become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING THE "SEUSSENTENNIAL"

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, each year on March 2 thousands of schools and millions of children take part in Read Across America, the National Education Association's annual celebration of reading and literacy. The date is no accident: March 2 is the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss.

As much as anyone in the past century, Dr. Seuss helped children learn to love reading by making it fun and exciting. In my frequent visits to classrooms and afterschool programs, I often read to young children, and I have found that Dr. Seuss is their favorite author.

His books are read and treasured everywhere—particularly in California, where he spent most of his adult life. In 1948, he bought an old observation tower in La Jolla, CA. For the rest of his life, The Tower was his residence and workshop. Every morning, Ted Geisel would walk into his studio, lock the door, and become Dr. Seuss. Drawing on his extensive collection of hats—inspired by "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins"—Dr. Seuss would put on a "thinking cap" and get to work.

The books that came out of The Tower—including "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham," "If I Ran the Zoo," "Horton Hears a Who," "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"—are among the best-known and best-loved classics of children's literature.

Dr. Seuss inspired Read Across America because he opened the door to literacy for generations of children by engaging them with gentle humor and fantasy.

The 2004 Read Across America is extra-special because it is the "Seussentennial"—Dr. Seuss's 100th birthday. The celebration has already begun in schools and community centers across America, where kids are making giant birthday cards, collecting hats, and, of course, reading lots of good books.

As we approach the "Seussentennial," I invite children and grownups everywhere to celebrate the joy of reading by honoring a great American author and educator, Theodor Seuss Geisel.●

HONORING R. LEWIS SHAW

• Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, R. Lewis Shaw and to commend him for his tenure as deputy commissioner for environmental quality con-

trol at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control as he leaves after 33 years of service.

Lewis began his career with the department as the district director for the Wateree district office, and later served as chief of the Bureau of Water Supply. Lewis was promoted to deputy commissioner of environmental quality control in 1984 and has provided exemplary leadership since that time. Under Lewis's leadership, the environmental quality control programs have grown to keep pace with national and State initiatives and are considered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to be among the best State environmental programs in the Nation.

Lewis has also been active in shaping national environmental policy over the past two decades by serving on numerous national committees, often as chairman, which advise both the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Congress. He has on several occasions presented testimony to both House and Senate committees regarding the impact of proposed Federal environmental legislation on individual States. Lewis has earned the respect of his counterparts in other States and has served as president of their national association known as the Environmental Council of the States. Lewis is currently the longest serving State environmental program director in the Nation.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in chemical engineering, Lewis also earned a graduate degree in environmental engineering from Clemson University, and is a registered professional engineer in South Carolina. Lewis is married to the former Judy Brown and has two children, Jason Shaw and April Shaw McCaskill.

I invite you to join me in thanking R. Lewis Shaw for his service and dedication to the natural resources and the citizens of the State of South Carolina.●

A LIVING LEGACY

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of Oregon's unsung heroes, Jim Willis. For many years, Mr. Willis has dedicated his life to assisting and enriching the lives of countless Oregonians. His story should serve as an inspiration to us all as we try to make our country a better place.

He was raised in California and attended the University of California at Santa Cruz. Upon graduation he was accepted for graduate school of the prestigious University of California at Berkeley, yet he never had the opportunity to complete his degree when his father became ill. Willis returned to be with his father in Bishop, CA, where he worked as the Education Department director for the Owens Valley Paiute Tribes. The experience set the tone for