

LAUER. But the intent was there?

Mr. KAY. Absolutely. And the intent at the top, of Saddam to acquire those weapons and to continue to attempt to acquire those was absolutely there.

LAUER. Almost a year ago Secretary of State Colin Powell addressed the United Nations. Here's what he had to say.

Secretary of State Colin Powell (from file footage): "Conservative estimate is that Iraq today has a stockpile of between 100 and 500 tons of chemical weapons agent."

LAUER. Conservative, or just plain wrong?

Mr. KAY. No, I think that was the estimate based on information and intelligence before the war. It turns out to be wrong.

LAUER. So what—what was the problem with the intelligence? Why were we so wrong?

Mr. KAY. Well, Matt, I think that is the challenge now. And I think the tendency to say, "Well, it must have been pressure from the White House is absolutely wrong." In some ways I wish it had been pressure. It would be easier to solve the problem. We now have to look—and people forget, Iraq is not the only place we've been wrong recently. We've been wrong about Iran, and we've been wrong about Libya's program there. We clearly need a renovation of our ability to collect intelligence.

LAUER. Here's what you said to Tom Brokaw. "Clearly the intelligence that we went to war on was inaccurate, wrong. We need to understand why that was." But you went on to say, "I think if anyone was abused by the intelligence, it was the president of the United States, rather than the other way around."

Mr. KAY. That's abso—absolutely my belief. I think, in fact, the president and all of us were reacting on the basis of an intelligence product that painted a picture of Iraq that turned out not to be accurate once we got on the ground.

LAUER. You find—you found that in—in 2000 and 2001 Saddam Hussein did actively try to develop and start a nuclear program?

Mr. KAY. He was putting more money into his nuclear program. He was pushing ahead his long-range missile program as hard as he could. Look, the man had the intent to acquire these weapons. He invested huge amounts of money in them. The fact is, he wasn't successful.

LAUER. In terms of the missile program alone, you feel that it's obvious and—and undisputable that he violated UN resolutions by developing weapons, missiles, that had a range outside of those UN resolutions?

Mr. KAY. Absolutely, Matt. We—we have collected dozens of examples of where he lied to the UN, violated Resolution 1441, and was in material breach.

LAUER. So based on the information that you have, David, not what we had prior to the war, but you have, in your opinion, was it prudent to go to war? Was there an imminent threat?

Mr. KAY. I think it was absolutely prudent. In fact, I think at the end of the inspection process we'll paint a picture of Iraq that was far more dangerous than even we thought it was before the war. It was of a system collapsing. It was a country that had the capability in weapons of mass destruction areas and in which terrorists, like ants to honey, were going after it.

LAUER. Do—do you feel that—you know, you've come out and started saying these things in the last couple of days, do you feel your words are being misused and misinterpreted in the political atmosphere that exists today?

Mr. KAY. I think there is a tendency, at this time to say, "Got you!" and try to do politics. It think this is national security, and far more important than momentary po-

litical gain. I hope that's now what's happening.

LAUER. If you spend eight months looking and didn't find anything, Dick Cheney says, "In time we could probably find it." You still think we should continue to search?

Mr. KAY. Absolutely. I think the inspection should continue because among things we don't know enough about are the foreign countries that helped the Iraqis throughout this period to acquire the missiles, to develop the nukes, to develop the chemical and biological. We need that for no other reason. And sure, we should keep looking.

LAUER. And as we move forward and we look at countries like Iran, which you brought up, and North Korea, how well suited do you think we are by our intelligence in those areas at this date?

Mr. KAY. I think based on the evidence we have now, we are not as suited as well as we need to be. And I think that is the challenge, not the political 'Gotcha!' contest.

LAUER. David Kay.

David, good to have you here.

Mr. KAY. Good to be here.

SUSAN BOARDMAN RUSS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I often come to this floor to thank various staff for their long, tireless and often anonymous work on behalf of the U.S. Senate and the 100 Senators who serve here. But it is not often that I come down here to acknowledge a public servant who has made such an incredible contribution to this institution and our shared State of Vermont.

Today, I would like to honor the 25 years of service of Susan Boardman Russ, who has served Senator JEFFORDS and the people of Vermont with extraordinary distinction.

Vermont is a small place. I have known Susan most of her life. Her father delivered two of my three children.

Over the years, I have watched her grow with a mixture of awe and admiration. Susan is brilliant, articulate, and has always kept her eyes focused on what is best for Vermont.

Senator JEFFORDS is to be commended for recognizing her talent early on and for keeping her in the fold this long. While Susan has moved with her husband and beautiful daughter to Houston, TX, I know she will always be a Vermonter at heart.

Recently, one of Vermont's finest journalists, Christopher Graff, wrote a beautiful tribute to Susan. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUSAN RUSS STEPS DOWN AS JEFFORDS' CHIEF OF STAFF

(By Christopher Graff)

MONTPELIER, VT. (AP)—Susan Boardman Russ was 14 years old, handing out campaign literature at the old Seaway Shopping Center in South Burlington for her Uncle Bob Boardman, who was running for the state Senate from Chittenden County.

The year was 1968.

Her school friend, Kathleen McGreevy, was handing out flyers for her uncle, Jim Jeffords, who was running for attorney general.

"My uncle was Democrat and hers was a Republican, but that did not matter much to two 14-year-olds," says Russ.

"Soon, we were efficiently sharing the load. To everyone I handed a Democratic Bob Boardman flyer I also handed a Republican Jim Jeffords flyer and she did the same."

Both Boardman and Jeffords were winners that year, their two nieces began a lifelong friendship and Russ' life became intertwined with Jeffords' political career.

In 1972 she worked during the summer on Jeffords' unsuccessful bid for governor and on "the night of his primary defeat I swore I would NEVER participate in another election," she says. "I was 18 and heartbroken."

That loss, though, was a minor setback for Jeffords, who went on to win the state's lone seat in the U.S. House in 1974 and moved to the U.S. Senate in 1988. Every step of the way Susan Russ has been there, starting as his front office manager in 1978, then four years later as his administrative assistant in the House office and finally as chief of staff of his Senate office.

Now, 35 years after she handed out her first Jeffords' flyer and 25 years after she went to work in Washington, Russ is leaving.

"It's been a perfect relationship," says Jeffords, adding that the two of them were a "great combination."

"Her ability to understand me, her common sense and her instincts to keep us out of trouble have been remarkable," he says.

The accolades come from all corners: Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., calls Russ "a Vermont treasure. For 25 years she has devoted her life to working for Senator Jeffords to make the lives of Vermonters better." In the small world department, Leahy noted that Russ' father delivered two of Leahy's children.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the No. 2 Senate Democratic leader, also has high praise for Russ, whom he first met through Russ' husband, Jack, who served as sergeant at arms in the House when Reid and Jeffords served there. Reid says Susan Russ was especially "politically savvy" in a job that required it.

"Chief of staff is a unique position because you need to have that political savvy, plus you have to a good manager of people, you have to recognize talent, and you can't be afraid to tell the senator when you think he or she is wrong," says Reid.

"I believe I have been blessed with having the best job imaginable and the most interesting job tolerable," says Russ. "I have had a front row seat to some of the most challenging moments in Washington for the past two and a half decades."

When Jeffords first went to Washington he was a little-known congressman from a tiny state who was a member of the minority party. Today he is one of the best-known senators in the world, achieving celebrity status with his decision in 2001 to abandon the GOP and become an independent, a decision prompted by opposition to the policies of President George W. Bush.

Russ says at the time she opposed Jeffords' decision although she knew that "Jim was clearly miserable.

"It was not because of any long held political or philosophical beliefs that I resisted Jim switching," she says, but that Jeffords had a long history with the Republican members and leadership. "We knew the GOP family—who to trust—who not to trust.

"It is my nature to try to keep things smooth, no rocking the boat. This would surely rock the boat.

"With nearly three years since the decision behind me, I do realize that for Jim, it was the only decision he could have made."

Asked to pick her favorite legislative experiences, she says there have been too many to do so, but mentions the 1985 Farm Bill with its whole herd buyout from among the

House experiences and the several victories with the dairy compact from among the Senate years.

"Each time, no one really believed it was possible but Jim refused to throw in the towel," she says.

Luke Albee, Leahy's chief of staff, gives Russ credit for extension of the compact. "She was focused and tenacious and she said to us every day when we were exhausted and dispirited, 'This is going to happen because it has to happen.'"

Russ has no hesitation in what she treasures the most from her decades in Washington: How Jeffords stood by her and her husband when Jack Russ, then the House sergeant at arms, was swept up in a federal probe into how congressmen misused the House bank.

"It would have been understandable for Jim the politician to try and distance himself from the House Bank Scandal," she says. "By 1994, when Jim was facing a difficult reelection race, Jack had come to represent the 'scandal' in a very public way. Jim never hesitated in his support." Russ says the tone of Washington and the intensity of the battle have changed dramatically since 1978.

"Members of different parties used to have intense battles over issues on the floor of the House or Senate and when it was over go out and have dinner together. They never went into each other's districts to help challengers. There was a general sense of camaraderie that does not exist anymore between members of the two parties."

Russ is moving to Texas to be closer to her husband's family. She has formed her own firm to advise businesses and non profits on the ways of government. She hopes the move will allow her to keep a hand in government but allow her more time to spend with her family.

Russ leaves Washington painfully aware that "politics is not a game for the meek," but more importantly, "I learned when all is said and done, you have to live with yourself and your decisions, so you better do what you think is right and let the chips fall where they may."

SAUDI ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to comment on S. 1888, the Saudi Arabia Accountability Act of 2003, introduced by Senator SPECTER. I commend my colleague for his leadership on this issue. Combating terrorism is our highest national security priority at this time, and I have long had concerns regarding Saudi support for terrorist groups. While the administration has stated that the Government of Saudi Arabia has recently increased its cooperation with the United States, and while I do believe that last week's joint U.S.-Saudi announcement regarding Al-Haramain branches in Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya and Tanzania is a positive step, it remains evident that the Saudi Government has often turned a blind eye to many activities that foster terrorism and, in some cases, Saudi leadership appears to have supported terrorism directly. This bill serves to exert pressure on Saudi Arabia to increase its counterterrorism efforts or to face limited sanctions. Cutting the links between terrorist organizations and their sponsoring governments is one of the most crucial tasks in the fight against terrorism, and I support the goals of this legislation.

However, the legislation raises other concerns that must be carefully considered by Congress. I am concerned that the legislation demonstrates the degree to which we, as policymakers, wear blinders in our relationship with Saudi Arabia. The legislation expresses dissatisfaction with the Government of Saudi Arabia solely for their lack of cooperation on the global war on terrorism. But Congress must not fail to mention the government's repression of women, grand-scale corruption, widescale detentions, and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly. I fear that these omissions risk sending the wrong message about U.S. foreign policy priorities to the Middle East and other areas of the world. U.S. foreign policy objectives of promoting human rights and democracy must not be neglected while combating terrorism. These do not have to be contradictory goals. Even as we urge the Saudi Government to act more decisively and consistently against terrorism, we must ensure that the U.S. does not inadvertently encourage repression of desperately needed reforms in Saudi Arabia. Only by addressing both sets of issues can we achieve a future in which the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia stands on a firm footing.

The national security implications of failing to speak out bluntly about Saudi support for terrorism prompted me to cosponsor S. 1888. However, I hope that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will take the opportunity to address some of these issues I have raised.

THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see the Senator from Maryland on the floor, an important member of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, and I am under the impression that she would like to discuss an issue concerning the International Fund for Ireland, IFI, with Senator MCCONNELL and myself.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Senator, who, like me, is a strong supporter of the International Fund for Ireland. As the Senator from Vermont knows, peace and reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland, under the Good Friday Agreement, will be assisted by efforts to build community institutions that promote tolerance and cooperation at the local level. I very much appreciate IFI's investment in these types of programs in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. I want to particularly commend IFI for the grant awarded to the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, formerly the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust. I would urge IFI, where appropriate, to increase its investment in these community-building efforts, as they are an important complement to IFI's economic development efforts.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator from Maryland. I also believe that IFI should consider increasing its support for these types of programs.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I agree with what the Senators from Maryland and Vermont have said concerning IFI and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

RECOGNIZING PAUL M. IGASAKI, FORMER VICE CHAIR, U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I recognize Paul Igasaki, a Chicago native, for his contributions to the important work of advancing our civil rights. Mr. Igasaki has dedicated his entire professional career to ensuring justice for the powerless in our society who are often neglected and ignored.

In his most recent years of public service as a commissioner, vice chair, and acting chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC, Mr. Igasaki not only enforced laws that helped prevent employment discrimination practices, he himself broke the glass ceiling as the first Asian American appointed to the high office.

Mr. Igasaki was successful in reducing overwhelming case backlog that was impairing the effective functioning of the agency. His recommendations led to the development of the National Enforcement Plan and the Priority Charge Handling Program, which have reduced the EEOC case inventory by over 70 percent. These structural changes have allowed the agency to focus on more serious cases where the EEOC's involvement can make a difference to the lives of American workers.

Similarly, Mr. Igasaki cochaired an EEOC task force that recommended focused litigation strategy, placement of attorneys in area offices, and greater cooperation between attorneys and investigators in agency, which have led to increased law enforcement effectiveness of the agency.

One of his most notable accomplishments during his term on the EEOC was his role in guiding the settlement of the Mitsubishi Motors of America case—the largest case involving sexual harassment at the workplace. His success with this case was influential in moving the Japanese government to implement gender discrimination and sexual harassment enforcement laws for their own country.

In the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, Mr. Igasaki brought valuable perspectives from his personal experiences as a Japanese American to the EEOC's efforts to combat unfair backlash and scapegoating of Arab Americans, South Asian Americans, Muslim or Sikh Americans and others who were wrongly targeted by hate and discrimination.

Mr. Igasaki mother's family owned a small truck farm near San Diego. Like thousands of other Japanese Americans, Mr. Igasaki's grandparents had been in the United States for almost a half century, and like most immigrants