

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today following the 60-minute period for morning business, we will resume consideration of S. 2400, the Department of Defense authorization bill. That will begin our third week of consideration on the Defense authorization bill. It is important that we finish this critical piece of legislation this week. I hope Senators will cooperate to that end. The amendments have been reviewed, and Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN will be looking to schedule floor consideration of those amendments.

Last week, I announced we will vote on Defense-related amendments this evening beginning at 5:30 p.m.. Although we have not locked in any votes at this time, it is my hope that this afternoon Members will come to the floor with their amendments so we can begin voting promptly at 5:30. We will alert all Senators when we reach consent concerning these votes.

In addition, this week we will need to consider a number of judicial nominations which were delayed from last week. Members should be prepared for consecutive votes on these nominations. We will be scheduling those votes throughout each day.

On this side of the aisle, we are not going to need rollcall votes on each of these nominations. I will be talking to the Democratic leadership to see if the Senate can act at least on some of these noncontroversial judges without a rollcall vote in the interest of schedule and time.

Finally, we face a number of scheduling challenges this week with other events that are going on. So it is important we use each Senator's time efficiently. We will be trying to accommodate as many of those events as possible. But we absolutely must have the cooperation of all Senators in order to get our work done this week.

I will turn to the assistant Democratic leader for his comments, and then I have a statement to make in morning business.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will be very happy to be on the Defense bill. We on this side have a number of amendments that will be offered immediately. I think they will be substantive amendments and they should not be controversial, at least as far as I know.

I ask the distinguished majority leader if President Karzai is going to speak here tomorrow.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it is my understanding he will be speaking tomorrow. The details of that will be announced later today. But it is my understanding it will be early in the morning to a joint session of Congress.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we look forward to working on this legislation. As the leader knows, we have a lot of amendments. I am glad we are able to focus on these today. I am sure we can dispose of a lot of these with the two managers. We have done that in the past. We still have to have several votes, and we will work to do our best

over on this side to get votes and move forward.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is the leader using leadership time?

Mr. FRIST. I will use leader time.

VISIT TO IRAQ

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, 10 days ago I had the opportunity to travel to Iraq to visit our troops on the front line and the troops serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On that same trip to Baghdad, I had the opportunity to spend time with Ambassador Jerry Bremer as well as the new Prime Minister of the Iraqi interim government. He was appointed Prime Minister 3 or 4 days before our arrival. His name is Dr. Ayad Allawi. He happens to be a neurologist who spent part of his time and his training in England several years after I had the opportunity to do some of my training in England.

Also during this trip, we had the opportunity to discuss with, listen to, and receive briefings from our Nation's senior military officers who are currently leading our efforts in Iraq. I was joined by my colleagues Senator BOB BENNETT and Senator JOHN ENSIGN.

I will take a few moments to share with my Senate colleagues some of what we saw and learned on this trip. We didn't say very much about it because of the tributes last week. But about 8 days ago we were in Baghdad in Iraq. Some of what I will say you have heard before, but a lot of it you have not heard in large part because the media—both the media in Iraq and here in the United States—tends to cover the terrorist events, and it is very appropriate, but tends not to see what is going on on the ground in terms of what our soldiers see and what the Iraqi people are seeing. Given what we read and what we see in the media every day, we had the same experience today of waking up and opening the newspaper with yet another terrorist act. We expected to see things getting worse and worse on a daily basis. We expected to find a mission that was struggling, demoralized troops, collapsed infrastructure, and distressed Iraqi people. However, we found the opposite. We found hope. We found optimism. We found progress. Yes, we were there when terrorist activities were occurring, but in balance to that, and juxtaposed, we saw tremendous success. We went, in part, to encourage others. We actually came back very encouraged and inspired.

The transfer to sovereignty, I am absolutely convinced, having just been there, will be successful. The transfer of responsibility is well underway. Again, I did not realize fully until going over there 9 days ago that most of the responsibility has already been transferred to the interim Iraqi government. The 33 new ministers have all been appointed. Most, or a majority of them, are already running their cabinet position or their department. The

new Iraqi government, the interim government, which will serve until the elections, appears to be very strong. People have tremendous respect for these leaders.

We began our trip in Kuwait. On the outskirts of Kuwait City, we visited Camp Wolverine. We were briefed there by the Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command, LTG Lance Smith. We learned how the command is fighting throughout the very large theater that begins in East Africa, the border being the Sudan area and extending across the globe to the "Stans." That entire theater is aggressively and with a great deal of success carrying out its responsibility, including fighting this war on terror. The 25 or 26 countries are all involved, both as a region and also as individual countries, in fighting this war on this global network of terror.

In countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan, we are actively engaged in combat operations. They were described in great detail to us. Alongside our coalition partners and others, we are fighting a preventive war with diplomacy and economic and other nonmilitary means. It is a global effort. It is a comprehensive war on terror that is being fought. Like weeds in a garden, our commanders realize if you do not take action promptly, aggressively, and broadly, terrorism will take root, it will grow deep, and it will spread uncontrollably.

After our briefings, Senators BENNETT and ENSIGN and I met with the service men and women, the soldiers who are out there literally on the front line day in and day out. In Kuwait City there is an entryway where everybody coming to that part of the world is channeled—our soldiers—as well as when they exit to go home on leave for a few weeks. It is remarkable how our soldiers are briefed and debriefed and that transition is made.

Later that day we had the opportunity to dine with soldiers from our respective States. I had the pleasure of sharing a meal with many soldiers from Tennessee, including Tech SGT Kenneth Clark from Millington, MAJ Jon Hays from Chattanooga, MSG John Russell from Bluff City, and SGT Otis Fox from Memphis. I understate when I say that being able to have a meal with them, with the Tennessee flag up next to us, made me and Tennessee quite proud.

The next day we spent in Iraq where, as I mentioned, we met with Ambassador Bremer and his staff. This is a view from the ground from where we were 8 to 9 days ago. He made very clear he is encouraged by the caliber of the new Iraqi interim government. It was in that meeting that I realized much of the responsibility for sovereignty has already taken place. The new ministers are actually up and running right now.

We also had an update on the Iraqi economy and reconstruction efforts, which, again, are doing much better

than what our media or a sampling of our media in the United States would ever imply. The statistics speak for themselves: Unemployment is nearly half of what it was before the war; inflation has been cut in half; oil production is nearly nine times higher than it was a year ago at this time; bank deposits are up; microcredit loans are flowing.

From a medical standpoint, 85 percent of the Iraqi children have been immunized, and 240 hospitals—all of the hospitals—have been opened. As we walked through hospitals, they are open and serving people. There is actually some very good equipment there that Saddam had purchased, but it was sitting in containers for years and years after he purchased it and left in the hallways. That equipment is now being brought online.

Over 1,200 preventive medical clinics are operating. The CPA and the coalition forces have completed over 18,000 individual reconstruction projects. About \$7 billion to \$8 billion of the reconstruction money has been committed as of June 5.

We also learned that the reconstruction money which is so important in terms of giving hope to the Iraqi people but also in rebuilding the infrastructure has begun to flow much more freely now that a lot of the contracting issues have been worked out on the ground. These projects are going a long way in terms of reinvigorating the Iraqi economy, getting the country back on its feet, and giving hope to that individual Iraqi person or that individual Iraqi family after decades of neglect of this infrastructure, with no hope for decades because of Saddam Hussein.

Reducing unemployment is a critical need. That is why the reconstruction money, in part, is so important. Unemployment must be improved before we will have a truly secure situation on the ground. It is critical to move toward a full-blown democracy in Iraq.

I mentioned I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Allawi, who I was very impressed with. He is a British trained neurologist, a longstanding opponent of Saddam Hussein's regime. He is the new Prime Minister. He will serve for the next 6 months. He is a man of great character. He shares our strategic goals and approach. He had talked to his country the day before and was covered extensively by the media in that part of the world. He talked about the sacrifice the United States has made, the fact that, yes, the security and elections are first and foremost, but it will be important to have the coalition forces and the United States present as we turn over to sovereignty but also help them rebuild their police forces and rebuild their military. We were the first delegation to have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Allawi, and, again, we were very impressed. I will say more about that meeting tomorrow.

Regarding the cabinet itself and the 33 ministers, I asked the people on the

ground about the 33 ministers who have been appointed. They are a broad, very educated group, very diverse group, geographically representative. There are six women. Two out of three have Ph.D.s. It seems to be both from a civilian—the Iraqi people—and a military viewpoint there is a tremendous amount of respect for the quality and the caliber of this cabinet.

A highlight for me personally, which occurred later in the day, was to visit the U.S. military hospital in Baghdad. Again, as a physician, it was invigorating to be able to meet our doctors and our nurses, our thoracic surgeons, our vascular surgeons who are treating anywhere from 70 to 100 patients in that facility every day.

We were able to meet a number of our service members who were being treated in the hospital who had been injured in the last several days. Again, to see their real patriotism, their pride, their optimism, even though they had just been injured the day before, was really gratifying.

I met with Greg Kidwell, a soldier from Clarksville, TN, who is serving in the military and serving his country by caring for patients in the hospital. It is a very impressive hospital facility. As a physician, as someone who spent 20 years in hospitals, this is top-notch, high-quality care from some of the most competent and dedicated professionals our country can muster.

Following the visit to the hospital, we visited with the 1st Armored Division near Baghdad. We had lunch with soldiers from the 1st Armored Division. Again, a number of Tennesseans who worked with the 1st Armored Division, such as SP Tim Griswold of Fayetteville, MSG Ron Miller of Clarksville, CAPT Mike Loveall of Gallatin, and SP Michael Johnson of Chattanooga were there. We were joined by several other soldiers from the 168th Military Police Battalion from Tennessee as well.

Afterwards, we were briefed by senior officers from the division. They gave us an overview of the situation, which was interesting because it was their responsibility to address the soldier militias. We had the opportunity to talk to them. This was several days after they had a huge amount of success in terms of addressing and defeating many of Muqtada al Sadr's militias in a number of cities throughout the south, having been moved from Baghdad down south. It is clear to them, and everybody we talked to, that Sadr is not supported by most Iraqis, but only by the disenfranchised and a fringe element.

Quite clearly, we owe the success of the 1st Armored Division to the competency, training, and motivation of our soldiers, and the overall success in all these activities to the success of our soldiers and our marines who risk their lives on a daily basis to bring freedom and democracy to Iraq.

Later that afternoon, we journeyed to the headquarters of the Multi-national Forces Iraq, which was formerly the CJTF-7. Again, we had a

comprehensive overview of the situation in Iraq. We left there impressed with our troops, with their character, with their courage, and with their determination to so selflessly accomplish their assigned mission. They are answering the call to duty to bring freedom and security so others may live free of tyranny.

I say all this saddened and well aware of the news that was presented last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; and that is, this increased level of terrorism and violence in Iraq, including the murder of the Deputy Foreign Minister, Bassam Salih Kubba, which is a terrible loss. But we must be aware of and I think it is important for the American people to understand both what we were told and what we saw. We were told by our military commanders, we were told by the Prime Minister, and we were told by the President of Iraq, who was here this past week, that there is going to be an increased level of terrorist activity. The terrorists want to defeat—they say the United States and they say the coalition, but they want to defeat any government, any governing authority. So that level of terrorism is likely. We should not be surprised if it increases between now and June 30, and indeed after sovereignty is passed off to the Iraqis in the weeks after the new government takes hold.

After June 30, the relationship between the United States and Iraq is going to be one of a strategic partnership, as we move from an occupying force to that of a mission and a very large embassy there. Our focus is going to be twofold. No. 1 is going to be security and No. 2 is to make sure, in terms of a strategic partnership, that these elections occur and that they occur in a free and fair way. So it is security and elections. That is what the focus will be over the next 6 months.

We, of course, will continue with the reconstruction progress that has been made, improving the Iraqi economy. At the same time, we will continue to fight terrorism now in partnership with the interim Iraqi government. The terrorists want, and the terrorists have as their objective, to derail the sovereignty to the Iraqi people. They are targeting the growing middle class in Iraq. They want to keep Iraqis out of voting booths. They want to keep them out of hospitals. They want to keep them out of schools. They want to keep them out of markets. And they want to accomplish that through fear.

But it is clear, in talking to the Iraqi people and the civilians and our military, that they simply are not going to succeed. That is what we left with: They simply are not going to succeed. Most Iraqis do not support these groups. They understand the terrorists are attacking the people of Iraq. It is going to be very helpful that when the Prime Minister, who had not met anybody from our legislative branch—the first words he said to me and to the Iraqi people were, using the Iraqi voice:

The terrorists are not after you, the United States, and not even after the coalition. The terrorists are after the Iraqi people. Every action—blowing up an oil line, blowing up a water line—hurts the Iraqi people, not the United States and not the coalition itself. That voice coming from the Iraqi leadership I think will be hugely helpful.

Iraqis do not like the U.S. occupation in and of itself. They are a proud people and they want that sovereignty. Yes, we are going from occupation to mission. Iraqis do want freedom. They do want democracy. But the President this week, with whom many of us had the opportunity to meet, and the Prime Minister said the goal is democracy.

Last week—and I will close shortly—the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a new U.S. resolution. The resolution outlines that transfer of sovereignty to the new interim Iraqi government and the role of the coalition forces after June 30. The world community is now united behind the Iraqi people, and with every passing day the Iraqi people, with the coalition's help, are building the capacity to govern themselves.

As in the past, we must stay the course. We will stay the course. We will keep true to the principles. We will have continued faith in our superb Armed Forces. We know that history in the end will be on our side.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the unused leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Wyoming.

IRAQ

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I was very pleased to hear about the leader's trip to Iraq. Having been there several months ago, I think things have changed some, certainly. I think they are even stronger there than they were and things are better than we hear about here. So I say to the majority leader, I am delighted you were there.

DEFINING THE ISSUES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, we are faced now with a relatively short period of time to finish our work for this year. We are down to a certain number of weeks—not very many—to do many things. We have a short time to finish the jobs that need to be finished. So I

wish to comment a little on some of the things I have been thinking about in terms of the broader aspect of what our responsibilities are in the Senate.

In the Senate, we are faced, of course, with many and varied issues. We have to deal with all kinds of things that happen and all kinds of issues that are brought up which are very legitimate. I guess this is my point: Our job is also to define the kinds of issues that are appropriate to be handled in the Senate, to be handled in the Congress, to be a part of the Federal activity.

Sometimes I think we find ourselves having all kinds of issues come up in this Chamber which one could question as to whether this is the role of the Federal Government. Of course, our basic decisionmaking comes from the Constitution. But the Constitution is obviously fairly broad in its terms, so there is always a different kind of feeling, a different definition for what are the appropriate roles, the appropriate issues in which the Federal Government should be involved.

I guess I am sometimes reminded that the Federal Government is only one of the functions that we have in this country to carry out the leadership and the activities for our country.

It is the United States of America, so that the Federal Government's role is to bring together those things that affect a number of States, and the States to do those things that are involved in their State. They are closer to the people in the State.

We also, of course, have county governments. We have State governments, and we have city governments. We have nongovernmental units. We have voluntarism. We have all kinds of things that are there.

One of the elements of our work is to decide what should be treated as legitimate Federal issues and the kind with which we should be concerned here. I think we are challenged every day with that kind of definition. I am not going to try to cite all the different ones that come up, but I can tell you there are things that come up that you would have a hard time saying: Hey, that is the role of the Federal Government to decide.

It is particularly appropriate to bring this up, after having spent the weekend celebrating Ronald Reagan's work as President and the job he did in leadership. His basic thought, you remember, all through his whole involvement was less government rather than more and wanting it to be more efficient rather than less efficient. So it does seem appropriate that we talk about those kinds of things as we go about our struggle.

We are involved now, for instance, with the establishment of a budget. Frankly, a lot of people say: What do you want a budget for; you don't pay any attention to it anyway.

That isn't true. The budget is kind of that definition of where we are going, and the Federal Government has some

control in that if you go beyond the budget in the appropriations process, which often happens, then there is the defense mechanism that you can raise a point of order where it takes 60 votes to get it passed. So it is interesting to me that now we are having time for the budget. In fact, time for the budget has actually passed. Remember, this is the fiscal year that ends at the end of September, and we are supposed to have all of our appropriations finished by that time. To do that, you really should have a budget. And we are here on the cusp of having a budget, yet with some fairly insignificant differences why we are held up and don't have one.

I was struck the other day by reading a little quote from James Madison. He said:

In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to control itself.

That is difficult, a large event like we have in the Federal Government, to control the size and the activities of the Federal Government. So I think in many ways it has grown beyond what most people would have envisioned in years past. Whenever there seems to be a problem here, now we have continued to create the notion that you need some money for this, you need some money for that on the local level. Let's get the Federal Government to pay it. Then, on the other hand, we say: taxes are too high. Why should we be paying this much?

So there is this built-in contradiction that is always there. But we need to take a look at the dollars spent. We need to take a look at the size of the Federal Government, the number of employees in the Federal Government, the number of agencies we have, and more difficult than anything else is to kind of keep track of the number of programs that are funded by the Federal Government. It is difficult sometimes.

One of the difficulties is programs become established, and they continue. Times change. What was appropriate to do 10, 15 years ago may not be appropriate now, but it seems to be very difficult to ever do anything about the programs that exist, that sort of perpetuate themselves.

So I think it really is interesting to deal with this issue and, again, to think about the role of the Federal Government.

We are doing something in the committee that I chair, the Parks Subcommittee, where we have more and more heritage areas. We find ourselves having heritage areas most everywhere, and you get a little advantage locally. I understand that. But we are trying now to put down the definition of what a national heritage area ought to be. There are State heritage areas; there are local heritage areas; and then there are national ones, each of which has different characteristics. So these