

to say, as I said on Monday, this increased terrorist activity was anticipated. It is unfortunate we have to anticipate this increased terrorist activity, but it was very clear from our discussions with the Iraqi leadership, as well as with our civilians and military leadership in Iraq, that the terrorists' goal is to do everything possible to obstruct this rule of law, to obstruct this transfer of power, this transfer to sovereignty, this transfer from us being an occupying force to a mission.

It is not aimed just at the United States or just the coalition, or not just the new Iraqi interim government, but it is ultimately aimed—and this is from the Iraqi leadership perspective—at the Iraqi people.

The trip we took was with Senator BENNETT and Senator ENSIGN. We did have the opportunity just a few days after the appointment of the new Prime Minister to meet with the Prime Minister and have an extended discussion. The new Prime Minister is Dr. Ayad Allawi. He is a neurologist by training. He is someone who 3 weeks ago did not anticipate being the new Prime Minister.

As I said earlier in the week, what we found in our discussions with our leaders there, but even more importantly with the Iraqi leadership, is that in spite of this anticipated and actual occurrence of increased terrorist activity—really since late March, and it will likely extend until several weeks or maybe longer after passage of sovereignty on June 30—was a lot of optimism and a lot of confidence in this new interim government. That optimism was tempered with caution and hope, but it was also paired with a real determination to succeed. Backing down in response to these terrorists is simply not an option. That is what the Iraqis told us, what the new Iraqi interim government told us.

In addition, we were encouraged by the confidence that our civilian leaders, Ambassador Bremer and his colleagues, have in the new ministers, or 33 of these new ministers who have been appointed, as well as the new Iraqi leadership, the Prime Minister, the President, who was here last week, and with whom the Democratic leadership and our leadership had an opportunity to meet. It is this interim government to whom we will be passing sovereignty on June 30. So to hear this confidence come from people who are on the ground in Iraq, the Iraqi people, as well as our leaders, again, was very reassuring to us.

Dr. Allawi has been a longstanding opponent of Saddam Hussein's regime.

He is a man of great character, and he is widely respected throughout Iraq. He made it very clear to us that he shares our strategic goals—strategic goals which become a partnership in many ways.

In our meeting with the Prime Minister, he stated very clearly that we—he spoke in terms of “we,” the Iraqi people, the Iraqi government and the

United States and the coalition—must again and again come back to what we and they are fighting for; that is, freedom and human rights and the rule of law.

This fight on terrorism is one that he knows will be long. He says it is now an Iraqi responsibility, and if these acts of terrorism are acts of terrorism against the Iraqi people and their hope for prosperity and their livelihood—and he would be saying that again and again as Prime Minister, and indeed he has done that over the last several days. He said there are some in Iraq who want to destabilize Iraq, that tyranny works hand in hand with terrorism. He said Iraq has a responsibility at this point to confront this evil in the region and the world; that Iraq needs help but it is Iraq's responsibility.

He was quite clear. The forces aligned against us understand that if Iraq is successful and succeeds in establishing the rule of law, those forces are defeated, but if Iraq fails as a state, then terrorism may be uncontrollable there—but also throughout the Middle East. He told us that a healthy Iraq will lead to a healthy and more stable Middle East region.

He also made clear that Iraq cannot succeed without the assistance of the United States, the international community, and the coalition forces.

He outlined to us various processes that must be worked in parallel if Iraq is to succeed in rebuilding the Iraqi institutions that were hurt, destroyed, and run in the ground by Saddam Hussein. We talked about the court system, the police force, the transformation of Iraqi society, and ensuring that political reform leads to Iraqis choosing their own leaders.

He said these two goals are, No. 1, security, and No. 2, free elections.

As we all know, this interim government will serve for a period of about 6 months at which time free elections will take place in January of next year.

A fourth point he made is to pursue economic development.

Again, he came back to the terrorists—that the terrorist activity there and the fighting going on there discourages investment in Iraq.

A major goal of the Prime Minister is to build consensus so that in Iraq a national identity will prevail. Their goal, though, continues to be hindered by Saddam's policy of divide and rule that Saddam purposely used to fracture Iraq over decades.

The Prime Minister said we need to help the country in order to move forward, and to do that we need to put that Iraqi face on security, to put that Iraqi face on the reconstruction and other efforts to rehabilitate the country.

He assured us that under the new leadership of the interim Iraqi government which will occur that it will be the Iraqis who will be telling the Iraqi story.

The central part of the Prime Minister's policy will be to combat terrorism.

We very quickly moved into the importance of having a strong judicial system—a strong rule of law to support the system, as he described it.

He pointed out that Iraq must improve and expedite the training of police and security forces in the country. He thanked us for providing tremendous assistance as they rebuild that police and security force.

Iraq needs to take steps with the help of its neighbors to tighten border controls and stop terrorist trafficking.

The Prime Minister also intends to make clear to the Iraqi people that the terrorist attacks we are seeing on this infrastructure—such as the tragedy of the sabotage of the oilfields over the last 24 hours—are attacks on the Iraqi people. He says this again and again—that terrorism hurts the Iraqi people, and thus it is the responsibility of the Iraqi people to come back and confront the terrorists.

As we wrapped up our meeting with the Prime Minister, he very soberly said that as Iraq moves closer and closer to democracy, the more the terrorists will attack. Indeed, that is exactly what we are seeing over the last several weeks since late March, and again will likely continue for the next several weeks.

He wanted us to understand that he and most Iraqis deeply appreciate the sacrifices that the United States of America has made for his country, for freedom, for rule of law, and for that move toward democracy.

Thus, while the road ahead will be difficult, the Iraqi people we believe—having just been there—are fortunate to have such a dedicated public servant with his vision and the will to work toward a free and democratic Iraq. The Iraqi people have a true leader in Prime Minister Allawi.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that our 30 minutes of morning business be divided as follows: Senator BENNETT for 15 minutes, Senator CHAMBLISS for 8 minutes, and Senator DEWINE for 7 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING 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 first half under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half under the

control of the majority leader or his designee.

Who seeks recognition?

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Democrat time this morning will be dispersed as follows: 8 minutes to Senator LINCOLN, 8 minutes to Senator CORZINE, and 8 minutes to Senator HARKIN. We will reserve the rest.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

AMERICAN SPIRIT

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, we have so much to do in this body and so much to talk about. But I can't think of anything more important for us to talk about than relieving the stress on working families and the American people.

We had a joint session yesterday where we heard the President of Afghanistan who very joyously spoke of the brilliant spirit of the American people. I think if we look at that brilliant spirit and what composes us as American people and the things we are able to do, it ultimately depends on what makes us the kind of people we are.

I rise today to pay tribute to the American people. For well over 200 years, the American people have proven their ability to overcome all manner of obstacles. At times they have done so with the help of their duly elected government officials, and at times they have done so in spite of their duly elected government officials. But either way, in the end, the spirit and character of the American people move this Nation toward a greater realization of the principle written about by Thomas Jefferson over 228 years ago.

I am not normally a betting person, but I say that putting your money on the American people is about as close to a sure bet as you are going to get.

In 1945, when millions of soldiers came home from the war, this Nation put its money on the American people, and it gave those who served this country the GI bill so they could educate themselves and make a better life for them and for their families. That investment helped to create an economic boom the likes of which this Nation has never seen—not to mention the talented minds that were nurtured and those who were given the opportunity to reach their potential. Millions of families were able to raise their economic standing and take part in the American dream. That economic expansion is one of the clearest examples that investments in education can pay off.

As I mentioned, we have many issues to talk about, much to do for the security of our Nation and the people. One

of the key factors in making sure we deal with these issues and we have the ability to provide the security—whether it be economic, whether it be social, or whether it be the values and simple security of families in this country—depends on the American spirit. It is simple. If we invest in the American people, the American people always bring this Nation a good return.

Now we are faced with new economic realities and new challenges in an information age as well as an age where wars will be fought in many different ways than what we have seen in the past. The question is, Are we investing in the American people the way we once did in 1945? Are we providing for another of the greatest generations of Americans, or are we missing the opportunity to provide for the children of today who will be the future of this country?

Last month I was in Garland County, AR, for the grand opening of the new Head Start Center there. It was a proud day for me. The center was named in my honor, but it was not just because the center would be associated with my name that I was proud, but more importantly because my name would be associated with a center of learning. I remarked that day that programs such as Head Start were practical ways we could provide opportunity for working mothers to raise their economic standing, to eliminate some of the stress on these working families, these working American families who are at the base of what this Nation is all about. Head Start can be the difference between a family becoming part of the economic mainstream. When mothers have a nurturing place to send their children, they can go to work or to school with the kind of confidence they need to reach their potential. They are not put in the terrible position of having to choose between employment and the safety or health of their children.

With the rise we are seeing in both child abuse and neglect because of the cuts in so many vital assistance programs, the need for childcare is at an alltime high in this country. More than just relieving the stress of finding good childcare, a program such as Head Start helps to prepare children for a lifetime of learning.

Everyone knows the more you learn, the more you earn. In seeing the children in that Head Start Program walking by, all of those little 4-year-olds with their Styrofoam cup, with their individual toothbrush in their hand, so proud they were learning something that was going to be a part of their life forever—good dental hygiene. It is not just teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic; it is teaching these children how to be a person who can then contribute their whole potential to their community and Nation. They returned from having brushed their teeth with this huge smile on their face about what they had learned.

These are programs vital to this country and its well-being. Families in

Arkansas recognize the hope that programs such as Head Start and childcare assistance programs provide. Right now, 800-plus Arkansas families are waiting for childcare assistance. Think of that. There are 800 families in line for hope in reaching the American dream. However, for some reason this administration does not want to give that hope a chance. In the President's budget request, almost 40 programs to help low-income working families make that transition into the economic mainstream through programs such as Head Start were not adequately funded.

In addition to cutting programs to help working families, this administration has failed to fully fund the bipartisan No Child Left Behind Act. Last year, No Child Left Behind was underfunded by as much as \$9 billion. I supported No Child Left Behind because I believed that with proper funding it would give children an opportunity to reach their full educational potential. I still believe that it can be an effective engine of reform in our public education system. For that reform to be effective, it is going to require significant investment, which so far has not been forthcoming from this administration.

Unless we make education a priority, an entire generation of Americans could miss out on the American dream. The fact is our economy has changed, but our approach to supporting and funding education has not. We are training our children to take on manufacturing jobs that no longer exist or are quickly disappearing. Not only are we losing manufacturing jobs, but now technical and highly skilled tasks are leaving our shores for cheaper highly educated workers. We can no longer settle for doing what we have always done.

This administration believes we can have champagne for the price of beer. The reality is, if you poorly fund education, you get a poor educational system.

But the good news is that if you properly fund education—from Head Start through high school—the chances of a world class education system go up exponentially.

If we are to give working mothers, fathers and their children an opportunity to live the American dream we must invest in their future.

As I said at the outset, every time we have put our money on the American people it has paid off. Let's take that bet and make the investment one more time.

I believe the children of today who are the brilliant spirit of the American people of the future, are worth the investment.

Mr. REID. I yield 4 minutes to the Senator from Florida, Senator NELSON.