

speech we heard from the interim Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Allawi.

I had the tremendous privilege, back in June, to meet with Mr. Allawi.

I found him to be very articulate and a true visionary for his country. This is a man who has a target marked on his chest and on his back wherever he will go in the world. It is critical that we do everything we can, along with the Iraqi security forces, to protect him and other leaders there. They are truly in the line of fire. There are many who would want to assassinate Mr. Allawi because they do not want to see freedom and democracy progress in Iraq.

The speech Prime Minister Allawi gave this morning was heartfelt. You could tell he appreciated what America and Americans families, along with our coalition partners, have sacrificed for the liberation of Iraq. Mr. Allawi made reference to a few things which I believe, as a country, we need to acknowledge. The only way for the terrorists and the insurgents to win is if America loses its way and loses its will.

Terrorists look for ways to disrupt and to win over public opinion because they know they cannot win militarily. We have not lost a single battle or military engagement in the last 3 years in Iraq or Afghanistan. Our military is so superior that the battles are not even close. We win every single one. So the terrorists know that the only way they can win is if they succeed in shifting public opinion back here at home. That is what the purpose of the terrorist attacks in Spain. They wanted to shift public opinion far enough to incite change, which they succeeded at doing. It decided the Spanish election and prompted Spain to pull out of Iraq.

We have to send a strong signal. Whether you are Republican or Democrat, whether you are for the war or against the war, it is critical that we as Americans stand together and send a message overseas, the way our foreign policy to do. We used to stand together as Republicans and Democrats and say partisanship stopped at the water's edge. We once again need to assert that ideal. We need to say to those who would come against us who would rise against the spread of freedom, the opportunity for people to live and worship how they want to and have the freedoms that we enjoy in many parts of the world—we need to say very clearly that we will not allow them to win. We will not allow this radical form of Islam to take over the world.

There is a battle of cultures. We must realize that. The radicals, the ones who want to win the hearts and minds of most of the Muslims around the world, are a small percentage. But we cannot allow them to win at this point. It is critical that we stay strong. We must send a message that our resolve is not going to waiver. We are not going to allow this to affect our elections. We are not going to allow terrorists to win here in the United States.

There are people—and they are good Americans, solid Americans—who are

against this war, who have been against it since the beginning. I plead with those in our country to look at the message that division in our country sends to those who would attack us, who would come against us. The old saying “united we stand, divided we fall” is as true today as it has always been. The more we show that we are united in this global war on terrorism, the less likelihood that the terrorists will continue. The terrorists must see that public opinion cannot be shifted because of the latest bombing or the latest beheading or any other horrific acts they may try to inflict on us. The more apparent our unity, the stronger our resolve, the less chance they will have to recruit new, young volunteers as suicide bombers. The less money they will be able to recruit from wealthy people around the world who are financing some of these activities.

We are in the middle of a Presidential election. We realize that. It important that we have strong, steady leadership, leadership that I believe we have in President Bush. It is at a time of criticality to our country and our foreign policy that our leadership carry us through the next few years and send a message to the rest of the world that we are going to stand strong, that we are going to stay the course.

Let me conclude with this: There are naysayers who believe democracy cannot work in the Middle East, that the only type of governments they can have over there are either dictatorships or some type of a religious theocracy. Prime Minister Allawi clearly addressed that today and spoke on behalf of the Iraqi people hungering for freedom and democracy. We must be successful in helping them to achieve that. Staying the course, whatever it takes, is critical not only for Iraq but for the larger global war on terrorism and to our own security here at home.

If we weren't fighting in Iraq, I can guarantee you, we would be fighting here against terrorists on our own soil. Our military is much more prepared for that battle than our civilians are. We are in a dangerous, different world today. We must realize that.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:29 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ALEXANDER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of

Tennessee, I suggest the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for 7 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HURRICANE DAMAGE IN FLORIDA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, if it were not bad enough that Florida has been hit by three hurricanes in a row—my family has lived in Florida for 175 years, and I cannot remember where two huge hurricanes hit the State back to back, much less do I think that the history books would record that three major hurricanes have hit any State in succession. But if that were not enough, there is now a hurricane out in the Atlantic named Jeanne that has killed already well over 1,000 people in the nation of Haiti, when it was only a tropical storm. It took a northward turn into the Atlantic, has looped around, and is now taking a westward path directly for the peninsula of Florida.

If this hurricane continues at 100 miles an hour, albeit in terms of what we have already experienced with the first one—Hurricane Charley was 145 miles an hour coming right off the Gulf of Mexico up Charlotte Harbor to ground zero at Punta Gorda, and we know what the magnitude of those winds can do, nevertheless a hurricane at 100 miles an hour coming back on to the coast of Florida, which has already been racked by two other hurricanes, from the southwest, Charley, and from the southeast, Frances, one can imagine the additional misery that our people are going to suffer.

So this leads me to my point. Last week we were on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. I battled to get recognition for what had not been requested by the White House, which was for Florida agriculture to be compensated. Thanks to the chairman of the committee, he finally accepted my amendment for \$70 million for the Red Cross. The Red Cross has been doing a marvelous job, as has the Salvation Army, but the Red Cross ran out of money. They had to go out and borrow \$10 million. So we still have that working in the conference committee on homeland security before we can bring it to final passage, but we are going to have to have plenty more funds.

I just received a shocking report on the destruction to the Pensacola Naval Air Station by Hurricane Ivan that was not only hit with winds sustained at 138 miles an hour coming off the Gulf of Mexico but also a tidal surge. We

have all seen those pictures on TV. The tidal surge went way up Pensacola Bay and was so high and so fierce that it lifted up sections of Interstate 10 off of pilings and dropped them into Pensacola Bay.

That same kind of storm surge and high winds has wreaked considerable havoc on the Pensacola Naval Air Station. The first reports from the Department of Defense—and I am going right now to our Senate Armed Services Committee to talk to the Secretary of Defense about this—the first estimate is the damage just to structures at Pensacola Naval Air Station is well over half a billion dollars. That does not include all the equipment.

Yet to show how the U.S. Navy can respond and recoup, they are starting pilot training at Pensacola NAS tomorrow, despite all of that devastation and destruction around them.

This voice from Florida is going to continue to ring out, calling for action and pleading for help. I hope the President will request it. In these closing weeks of the session before we adjourn before the election, we cannot let any of these needs go unmet for the sake of our people and for the sake of the Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, what is the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is currently in morning business for 1 more minute.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to address the Senate in morning business for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, NEW
OAS SECRETARY GENERAL**

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I had the privilege and pleasure this morning of attending the induction of Miguel Angel Rodriguez as the new Secretary General of the Organization of American States. Unfortunately, the only once every 5 or 6 years induction of the Secretary General of the OAS occurred almost at the same time we had a joint session of Congress with the acting Prime Minister of Iraq. It is unfortunate these events could not have been better coordinated, because I know there are many of my colleagues who would have enjoyed attending this very important ceremony that includes our hemisphere yet also felt the need to be at the joint session this morning.

I also regret that our own President was unable to be at this induction ceremony. We had Presidents from Costa Rica, from Suriname, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Peru, Dominica, the Vice Presidents of Colombia and Panama, Foreign Ministers, and Ambassadors representing our neighbors in this hemisphere in a very important induction. It is about 300 yards

from the Oval Office to the building of the Organization of American States. I know the President is busy and had other matters on his mind, maybe, this morning.

I forgot to mention, by the way, the President of Nicaragua and the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were there as well.

It was an excellent speech that Miguel Angel Rodriguez, the former President of Costa Rica, gave this morning, talking about the importance of democracy and freedom and liberty, and the efforts being made in Latin America to secure greater democracy and greater freedoms for the millions of people who call the Americas their home.

It has not been an easy time for many of these Presidents, with the difficulties they have faced economically and with the natural disasters. We just heard the eloquent comments of my friend and colleague from Florida about the recent devastation of his home State of Florida, with three hurricanes hitting his home State.

Many of these small countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have faced similar problems. We know in Granada, 90 percent of the homes were destroyed in this country by the hurricane that passed over it. We know the devastation that occurred in Jamaica and the Bahamas. In Haiti, 650 people died just last week as a result of the hurricane hitting in that country. Central America, El Salvador, and Nicaragua are still trying to recover from the devastations that have hit them over the last number of years.

We know about the economic difficulties in Argentina and the problems that exist in Peru. The difficulties in Colombia are ongoing.

This is an important area of the world. I know we are preoccupied for all the obvious reasons with events in Iraq and Afghanistan, but Latin America is our neighbor. These are nations that are our closest neighbors, some of which have been stalwart friends of ours during difficult times.

The new Secretary General spoke eloquently this morning about the importance of democracy and the importance of freedom in the Americas, and how important it is that we do everything we can to support these efforts, recognizing the future of these nations will depend upon strengthening democratic institutions in these countries.

Democracy does not depend upon the support of the powerful. In fact, quite the contrary. Dictatorships, to survive, depend upon the support of the powerful. Democracies and freedom depend upon the support of those who are weaker, those who are fragile. If they fail to support democracy, then it doesn't make it.

At a time such as this, it is important that we pay attention to the words of our friends and neighbors in this hemisphere, particularly the words this morning so eloquently delivered

by Miguel Angel Rodriguez at his induction as the new Secretary General of the Organization of American States. I know several of our House colleagues were there. My colleague from Minnesota was there, the chairman of the subcommittee on Latin American affairs, which is the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, and Narcotics Affairs. I thank him for being there. So we had some representation from both the House and this body for this induction ceremony.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the eloquent speech given by Miguel Angel Rodriguez be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE AMERICA OF FREEDOM

His Excellency Abel Pacheco de la Espriella, President of the Republic of Costa Rica;

His Excellency Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan, President of the Republic of Suriname;

His Excellency Oscar Berger, President of the Republic of Guatemala;

His Excellency Ricardo Maduro, President of the Republic of Honduras;

His Excellency Elias Antonio Saca, President of the Republic of El Salvador;

His Excellency Boniface Alexandre, President of the Republic of Haiti;

His Excellency Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda;

His Excellency Enrique Bolaños, President of the Republic of Nicaragua;

His Excellency Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;

His Excellency Alejandro Toledo, President of the Republic of Peru;

His Excellency Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica;

His Excellency Francisco Santos, Vice President of Colombia;

His Excellency Samuel Lewis Navarro, Vice President of Panama;

Ministers of Foreign Affairs and members of official delegations;

Ambassador Carmen Marina Gutiérrez, Chair of the Permanent Council;

Mr. Assistant Secretary General;

Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives;

Ambassadors;

Dignitaries that honor us with your presence;

Distinguished First Ladies;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The long journey of men and women in search of freedom led them to the promised land of the Americas. Here the ideals of thinkers and poets, the worries of farmers and artisans, the hopes of young and old caused nations to flourish, gave rise to constitutions and the proclamation of rights, and forged progress. Independence came with the smell, color, and shape of freedom. Battles were waged against a system that allowed slavery and control over land and Indians, against segregation and male chauvinism, exclusion and privilege. The seeds of freedom, justice, and solidarity were sown, irrigated with blood and fertilized with intelligence and the tenacity of women and men, farmers and professionals, youth and adults of all races and origins.

We have learned along the way that freedom is forged and dignity exercised through concrete works. And step by step, through trial and error, and by taking up where we left off, we have gradually built our democracies.