

That was one of the more remarkable panels we have ever had. Judge Alito has served with Republicans and Democrats—experienced judges, extraordinarily wise, very interesting to listen to, and their respect for him was remarkable.

Indeed, the ABA panel member—an African American who represented the University of Michigan in the affirmative action admissions case which went before the Supreme Court—said that Judge Alito was “held in incredibly high regard” by the ABA.

I will share a few words from Judge Alito himself before I wrap up.

In his testimony, he was asked about cases that may come before him. I have to say nobody would dispute that in recent years he was more forthcoming than any nominee we have had in discussing openly how he would analyze a case, without going too far and prejudging it in any way. He said these words, which I think reflect good judgment and wisdom of judgment.

By the way, we have a transcript, but all of this was without notes. He spoke so beautifully. He looked right at us.

This is what he said:

Good judges develop certain habits in mind. One of those habits in mind is to have a delay in reaching a conclusion until everything has been considered. Good judges are always open to the possibility of changing their minds based on the next brief that they read, or the next argument that is made by an attorney who is appearing before them, or a comment that is made by a colleague during the conference on the case when the judges privately fully discuss the case.

That is what we want in a judge. We want a judge who comes in with a philosophy and a demonstrated record of not rushing to judgment, not allowing any personal views he may have to influence him. He analyzes a case, but has a record that has won the respect of colleagues, liberals and conservatives, Republicans and Democrats, the bar, and his colleagues on the bench.

He is an extraordinary nominee. I could not be more proud of him. He did a magnificent job in testifying. I never thought that anyone would testify to the level of John Roberts because he is such a skilled attorney and advocate. But this judge in his own way was every bit as good. He made us all proud, and President Bush should be very proud for submitting his nomination.

I am pleased to support him. I will be voting for him, and I hope my colleagues will do the same.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a

period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RESOLUTION ON CAMBODIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I commend the majority leader for offering an important resolution on Cambodia yesterday that expressed concern with the systematic campaign by Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia to undermine democracy and the rule of law in that country.

Scholars can argue when this campaign was initiated—after U.N.-sponsored elections in 1993 or before the coup d’etat in 1997—but no one disputes that it culminated early this year in the arrest of human rights leader Kem Sokha and other reformers in Phnom Penh on charges of defaming the Prime Minister.

As the resolution points out, no sector in Cambodia has been spared in this campaign.

Opposition leader Sam Rainsy was stripped of his parliamentary immunity last year and sentenced to 18 months in absentia for defaming the Prime Minister.

Radio journalist Mom Sonando was arrested for criminal defamation.

Even Rong Chhum, president of the Cambodian Independent Teachers Association, was similarly charged.

To be sure, other champions of freedom in Cambodia have suffered worse fates. Former parliamentarian Om Radsady and labor leader Chea Vichea were brutally murdered by unknown assailants. Justice remains similarly elusive for a grenade attack against a conference hosted by the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party in 1995 and a more brutal attack against a peaceful rally organized by the Khmer Nation Party—headed by Sam Rainsy—in 1997.

The immediate and strong condemnation of the arrest of Sokha and his colleagues by international donors and multilateral organizations, including the United Nations and the World Bank, is certainly welcomed. U.S. Ambassador Joe Mussomeli and Deputy Chief of Mission Mark Storella deserve praise for standing by Sokha throughout the crisis. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill’s trip to the region succeeded in freeing Sokha from prison, and I know he cringes at Hun Sen’s characterization of Sokha’s release as a “gift”. This may have been simply a poor choice of words, but it serves to affirm the world’s perception of Hun Sen as a Southeast Asian dictator.

The news that Hun Sen will drop charges against Sokha and other civil society reformers is not a cause for celebration. History shows that Hun Sen is a habitual offender, and we can expect continued harassment and intimidation against those championing freedom and the rule of law.

The international community must now turn its attention to the plight of Sam Rainsy, Cheam Channy and other political prisoners. It is time for His Majesty King Sihamoni to derail Hun Sen’s campaign by immediately pardoning Rainsy, Channy, and all other political prisoners. Only then will democracy have a chance to get back on track in Cambodia.

The challenge for Cambodia’s many donors is straightforward: hold Hun Sen and his government accountable for their actions. While this may require some soul searching by U.S. allies, particularly France, Germany, and Japan, the status quo in Cambodia serves only the interests of Hun Sen and the ruling Cambodian People’s Party. With a donor’s conference approaching in March 2006, the international community must demand a return on the significant assistance provided to Cambodia.

As over \$2 billion has been invested in the democratic development of that country since the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, it is not too much for the international community to demand that the Prime Minister and his government conduct themselves in a manner that respects the constitutional rights and dignity of the people of the Cambodia.

LISTENING TO TEENS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the 2005 Teen Gun Survey conducted by the Uhlich Children’s Advantage Network, also known as UCAN, produced some very interesting and troubling results. UCAN conducts this survey each year as a way of measuring teens’ attitudes about gun violence. For 2005, the sample included nearly 1,000 teenagers from around the country who responded to a variety of questions about their exposure to gun violence and its impact on their lives.

The UCAN survey makes clear that far too many teens are exposed to gun violence. According to the survey, nearly half of the respondents personally know someone who has been shot, and more than a third know another teenager who has threatened to kill someone with a gun. Almost one out of every five teenagers who responded said they heard gunshots in their neighborhood at least once a month, and 38 percent believe they could get a handgun if they wanted to. Disturbingly, 39 percent of the respondents fear they will be shot someday.

The results of the survey also raise significant concerns about the perceived safety of our schools. More than a third of respondents said that they are afraid gun violence might take place in their school, and 21 percent feel that they are safer away from school than when they are in school.

These results should be taken seriously. Many teens who are exposed to gun violence may turn to violence later in life. A study completed last year by a University of Michigan researcher

found that adolescents who were exposed to gun violence were more than twice as likely to carry out violent acts within the following 2 years. Fifty-six percent of the teens surveyed by UCAN said that they believe violent teenagers learn their behavior from their parents. We must do more to break this cycle.

Unfortunately, most of those who responded to the UCAN survey believe that the Government doesn't understand the realities of gun violence for teenagers and would not care if they were a victim of gun violence. In addition, 41 percent of the teens surveyed said they would benefit from more violence prevention programs and resources.

We should listen to what teenagers around the country are saying about guns. Their responses to the UCAN survey show that Congress is not doing enough to protect young people from the threat of gun violence. I urge the Senate to do more to help ensure our teenagers do not have to fear guns in their schools and communities by passing commonsense gun safety legislation and by supporting violence reduction programs.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MAJOR STUART ANDERSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I speak today with deep sorrow, for we have lost a truly brave American and soldier. MAJ Stuart Anderson died on January 7, 2006, when the Blackhawk helicopter he was in crashed just outside Tal Afar in northern Iraq. His helicopter was part of a two helicopter team providing support for the 101st Airborne Division. Major Anderson was assigned to the 3rd Corps Support Command, Army National Guard. My condolences go out to his wife, Tori; his two daughters, Keely 15, and Kirsten 10; his parents, Claremont and Nancy Anderson; and many other family and friends.

Major Anderson grew up in Hoffman, MN, and then graduated from Benson High School in Benson, MN. He attended North Dakota State University. Maj. Anderson had been living in Dubuque, IA, for the past 5 years and was scheduled to return home this fall. He was a supply and service support representative for his Des Moines based unit; he made sure combat troops in some of Iraq's most dangerous areas had the proper supplies.

Major Anderson joined the Army Reserve in 1984, became an officer in 1989, and was serving in his second tour of duty in Iraq. Many of Major Anderson's colleagues define him as a trusted and humble leader. LTC Thomas Nielsen wrote that "Major Anderson was one of the finest officers I have known in my 28-year career." Major Anderson's father said that "he was very proud of being in the military . . . he just loved it." He was known to sprinkle in humor with his training and with his annual Christmas cards. His humor

will be missed by all who knew him. I ask my colleagues in the Senate and every American to remember the sacrifice that Major Anderson gave for our freedom.

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, each year congressional offices host American college students as interns, to help our future leaders learn about public service and see how their Government works firsthand.

Today, I would like to let you know about a program that gives Australian students the opportunity to experience our democratic and legislative process. It's called the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program.

My office is taking part in it right now, along with others in Congress. Twelve of Australia's brightest are here, pursuing knowledge and understanding. In so doing, we are all finding new reasons to like an old friend.

The Uni-Capitol was born of the efforts of Eric Federer. Eric worked for more than a decade in the House and the Senate as a senior adviser. While doing this job, he lectured across Australia on American Government, politics, and news media. In an effort to forge ties across the Pacific and for the betterment of both societies, Eric put together this idea in Washington in 1999.

The selection process for the students is competitive and intellectually rigorous, ensuring the highest quality applicant. All participating students are comprehensively matched with a congressional office and corresponding position. They come from a wide range of academic disciplines and bring as much knowledge and understanding to our offices as they take away.

For the past 7 years, Mr. Federer's students have approached this opportunity with vim and vigor. I am pleased to have Douglas Ferguson from the University of Canberra working in my office this year. I would also like to submit into the RECORD the names of other Australian interns participating in this year's program:

Andrew Brookes, from Melbourne University, is in Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD's office. Ryan Conroy, from Deakin University, is in Representative SAM FARR's office. Jenna Davey-Burns, from Melbourne University, is in Representative LOUIS SLAUGHTER's office. Sarah Dillon, from Deakin University, is in Representative ALCEE HASTINGS's office. Jessica Gurevich, from Melbourne University, is in Representative MIKE CASTLE's office. Scott Ivey, from the University of Western Australia, is in Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ's office. Saul Lazar, from Deakin University, is in Senator CHUCK HAGEL's office. Abbie McPhie, from Macquarie University, is in Representative JERROLD NADLER's office. Linda Nelson, from the University of Wollongong, is with the House Science

Committee's majority staff. Marianna O'Gorman, from the University of Queensland, is in Delegate ENI FALEOMAVAEGA's office. Rachel Thomson, from the University of Western Australia, is with the Joint Economic Committee's minority staff.

Australia continues to be one of America's strongest allies. Our greatest gift is the friendship born of shared values. I thank the Uni-Capitol Program and these Australian interns for their hard work, and I wish the program continued success.

ATTACK ON CHASIDEI SYNAGOGUE IN MOSCOW

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, on January 11 of this year, at the Moscow Headquarters and Synagogue of Agudas Chasidei Chabad of the Former Soviet Union, a so-called "skinhead" attacked worshippers with a knife and wounded eight persons. I know that all Members of this body deplore this terrible crime and send our prayers and best wishes to all those injured during the assault.

The victims of this senseless violence include Rabbi Isaac Kogan, who testified before an April 6 Helsinki Commission hearing I convened last year concerning Chabad's ongoing efforts to retrieve the Schneerson Collection of sacred Jewish texts from Moscow. The Rabbi is a noted refusenik who was appointed by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, to be part of Agudas Chasidei Chabad of the Former Soviet Union. In addition to nurturing Judaism throughout the former USSR, that organization has fought tirelessly to win the return of the Schneerson Collection to its rightful owners in the United States. The entire U.S. Senate has twice petitioned the Russian leadership to release those holy texts.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have followed closely the issue of anti-Semitism and extremism around the world. Unfortunately, the brutal attack at the Agudas Chasidei Chabad synagogue fits what appears to be a rising trend of attacks on ethnic and religious minorities in Russia.

Let me present one disturbing statistic. According to an article in the Moscow News last year, the Moscow Human Rights Center reports that Russia has up to 50,000 skinheads with active groups in 85 cities. This, as opposed to an estimated 70,000 skinhead activists throughout the rest of the world.

To make matters worse, there are indications that the police themselves are sometimes involved in racist attacks. Earlier this month, a Russian newspaper carried a story about the Moscow police assault of a passerby who happened to be from the North Caucasus. According to persons from the North Caucasus, such beatings are a common occurrence.

What was uncommon was the fact that the gentleman in question is a colonel in the Russian Army and an internationally known cosmonaut.