

could our troops come home? Under what scenario could this war end? Based on everything we have heard, we can reach only one conclusion with 160,000 courageous American troops serving in Iraq. President Bush has an exit strategy for one person—and that is himself—on January 20 of next year.

Here is what three Senators had to say during yesterday's hearings. One Senator said:

I think Osama bin Laden is sitting back right now looking at this thing and saying, in effect, "We're kinda bankrupting this country."

Another Senator said:

I think people want a sense of what the end is going to look like.

A third Senator said:

Our patience is not unlimited.

All three of these questions were from Republican Senators yesterday.

To my Republican friends I say: Let's work together. We had the opportunity to change course in Iraq last summer, but Republicans who were willing to criticize the war proved unwilling to break with President Bush by voting against it. But it is not too late. Neither side is looking for a hasty withdrawal that would put our troops or the Iraqi people at undue risk. We want a smarter, more sustainable strategy that addresses all the national security challenges our Nation faces—from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida safe haven in Pakistan, to winning the peace in Afghanistan, to rebuilding full combat readiness of our ground forces.

If we work together, Democrats and Republicans, we can set a new course that takes us responsibly out of Iraq and would focus on the global challenges that have gone overlooked for far too long.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL PETRAEUS AND AMBASSADOR CROCKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say briefly, I wish to offer my congratulations, along with those of others, to both General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker for their astonishingly good work over the last 9 to 12 months. In virtually every measurable way that you can look at Iraq, conditions have dramatically improved. That is a direct result of the smart military strategy that has put Iraq in a position where it can realistically aspire to be a relatively normal country by the standards of the Middle East and certainly an ally on the war on terror, which is extremely important.

I also think it is important for all of us to remember we have not been attacked here at home for almost 7 years—a direct result of the strategy of

getting on the offense and pushing back against those who would attack us here at home, which we have done both in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

So it was an opportunity, with the appearance of the general and the ambassador, to congratulate them for their outstanding work over the last year. We look forward to going forward in Iraq in a way that leaves behind a stable country that can make a positive contribution to the security of the United States here at home and in the Middle East.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 71 percent of the American people believe that invasion of Iraq was a mistake, a foreign policy blunder, some say the worst this country has ever done, the worst foreign policy blunder—71 percent. During that poll, there were a few percentage points where people had no opinion. So about 15 percent of the people think the invasion of Iraq was the right decision. We must get our troops home. The sooner we do that, the better off we are.

I look forward to General Petraeus's and Ambassador Crocker's hearing today before the two relevant committees in the House. When this is all over and done with, we will be able to assess when we can have a better opportunity of bringing our troops home. As we indicated earlier today, it seems difficult—when the violence is up, we need more troops and when it is down we need more troops. We can't have it both ways.

The military is at a breaking point. I am not saying that; I am repeating what others have said. General Cody, who is a four-star general on Active Duty, has said he has never seen our military in such a state of disrepair as it is now. So things aren't glowingly good. We have to work together to try to rebuild our military, and one way we can do that is focus on getting the right number of troops to Afghanistan and rebuilding our military, which is, as General Cody said, in very bad shape.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the troops are coming home in an orderly way. Precipitous withdrawal we know would lead to a new haven for terrorists with the opportunity to attack us here at home. I think, clearly, we will debate this issue in the fall. The American people have this on their minds, obviously. They also have on their minds the economy, health care, and other matters. They are interested in their future. I think the American people are not interested in having additional attacks on the homeland in the future. That is something we will debate not only in the Senate but out on the campaign trail this fall.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one of the things that will be debated this fall is whether our troops need to be in Iraq for another 50 or 100 years. I think that will be a pivotal part of the debate that takes place in the Presidential elections.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, of course, no one has said that, and my dear friend, the majority leader, knows it. That is a swipe at Senator McCain, who was talking about troop deployments overseas, not the continued engagement in warfare. The mainstream media—which has not been particularly friendly to the war—has hammered those who have accused Senator McCain of saying we were going to have a 100-year war in Iraq.

This is a deliberate misrepresentation of what he has said. Anybody who looks at the entire exchange, which occurred in a town meeting in New Hampshire back in January, knows precisely what he was saying. He was talking about having troops deployed overseas, which we have had in Germany and Japan and South Korea for many years. He was talking about a situation under which they are not under attack, not being killed or wounded but deployed overseas, not only to protect our security interests but also to reassure our allies. That is what Senator McCain was talking about. No one I know is suggesting—and it is almost laughable to suggest—that we are talking about that kind of lengthy military engagement.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if one of the Democratic hopefuls had said it, I would also be trying to spin it in a way that looked good. The fact is, you can't spin what Senator McCain said at that town hall meeting in a favorable light. His record speaks for itself as to how he feels about the war in Iraq.

My friend always talks about the fact the American people don't want attacks here. Of course, they don't want attacks here at home. Of course, they don't. Everyone should understand, though, that prior to the invasion of Iraq, there was not a terrorist in Iraq, and now, of course, there are lots of them. We need to focus on Osama bin Laden, on his safe haven he has in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and as General Casey—also an active member of the military—said, we need to get more troops into Afghanistan. We can't do that when we have 140,000 troops this July in Iraq.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, one other thing. One thing we do agree on—in trying to end this exchange with something we do agree on—I think both the Democrats and Republicans agree the size of the Marines and Army is insufficient. I think there is bipartisan support in the Congress to increase the size of both the Army and the Marines. I think that is something we can agree on. Hopefully, that will be achieved in the coming years.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

56TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, in light of the fact that a few minutes ago we opened the Senate in prayer, I want to say that last month I had the privilege of cochairing with the Senator from Colorado, Senator SALAZAR, the 56th Annual National Prayer Breakfast, held here in our Nation's Capital. This annual gathering is hosted by Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, who have weekly prayer breakfast groups. Once again, we were honored to have the 56th consecutive participation of our President and the First Lady. Presidents since Dwight Eisenhower have spoken at the annual prayer breakfast. We were encouraged and inspired by the remarks shared by Ward Brehm. Unfortunately, a transcript doesn't give the superb pauses and delivery that we who attended got to enjoy, but it is a superb message I want to share.

This year, we hosted a gathering of over 3,500 individuals from all walks of life in all 50 States and from many countries around the world. So that all may benefit from this time together, on behalf of the Congressional Committee for the National Prayer Breakfast, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the transcript of the 2008 proceedings be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the conclusion of my speech.

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

(See Exhibit 1.)

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this is an example of what we do in our weekly prayer breakfast, with little exception, and the presenters at our weekly prayer breakfast are always Senators or former Senators. It is a chance for us to get to know each person in this body as they present.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

56TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST,
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008,
HILTON WASHINGTON HOTEL,
WASHINGTON, DC

Co-Chairs: U.S. Senator Mike Enzi and U.S. Senator Ken Salazar

U.S. Senator Mike Enzi: I would bet that some of you are wondering, "How did I get here?" and "What kind of an outfit is this?" We will try to explain a little bit. Ken and I are part of a very small breakfast group made up entirely of Senators that has met every Wednesday that the Senate has been in session since the middle part of the Truman

administration. That was in the late 1940's. We share with each other, we eat, we pray and we discuss things that really matter.

I am reminded of a time I was in South Africa meeting with their parliament for a breakfast and I suggested that our Senate prayer breakfast could pray for their issues. A parliamentarian named Paul brought me up short and said, "Don't pray for the issues, pray for the people and the people will solve the issues." And that is what we do at our weekly prayer breakfast. That is what we will be doing here.

Now once a year we hold our weekly meeting in a slightly bigger room and we invite 4,000 people from around the world to come along for the ride. Welcome to our prayer breakfast. (Applause)

U.S. Senator Ken Salazar: We count it a privilege to serve in the United States Senate but frankly it is not always an easy job. President Truman once said that if you want to have a friend in Washington, buy a dog. We see that all the time. Our breakfast in the U.S. Senate is an attempt to put back into all of us what the job takes out from all of us and gives us a reason to have trusting relationships, to find wisdom and to reconcile our differences.

For me, I don't need to buy a dog in Washington, D.C. because I have a friend named Mike Enzi. (Laughter) Mike Enzi brings his common sense, compassion and approach to the issues that face our nation and it makes him a key leader in the United States Senate. That helps us get to results by putting the public purpose above the politics which sometimes so confines this town.

Washington, in my view, does not need a lot more speeches. It needs people who need to seek and listen and to understand. More people like Mike and his wife Diana, who is here with us this morning. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve with Mike Enzi for the last three years in the U.S. Senate.

Senator Enzi: I have enjoyed getting to know Ken and the deep wealth of heritage and caring that he brings to the Senate. His family has lived in Colorado for 150 years—longer than there has been a Colorado. Our connection began personally and now we are able to talk about things that Republicans and Democrats do not talk about together. And what do you know? We have figured some things out. We are a couple of guys from the high plains, Colorado and Wyoming, who are trying to keep things on a higher plane in our jobs. We have been working on this breakfast for many months now and we hope you enjoy it. A lot of prayer has gone into it and we hope it somehow scratches where you itch.

One special note, folks, Dr. Billy Graham attended the Breakfast and was the main speaker for the first few years. He sent a special word to us last night that he would be with us in spirit this morning and is praying for us at this very moment from his home in North Carolina. Thank you for your prayers and a lifetime of spiritual leadership, Billy. (Applause)

Senator Salazar: 155 nations are represented here this morning in Washington, D.C. I now want to introduce to all of you the distinguished heads of state who have joined us from other lands today: The Chairman of the Council of the Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prime Minister Nicola Spiric; The President of the Republic of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza; The President of the Republic of El Salvador, Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez, and the First Lady; The President of the Republic of Honduras, Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales; The President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Immanuel Mori; and The Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, Prime Minister Tuila'epa Lupefeso Sialele Malielegaoi. (Applause)

You are all most welcome. Thank you for giving that warm welcome to our guests here to the United States of America. We live with human borders but we are one family across the face of the earth. Thank you for the honor of your presence and the chance to get to know you as friends and fellow travelers in search of truth and a better world.

Senator Enzi: When one of our members heard that our singer was Michael W. Smith he said, "Well that's worth getting out of bed early for." Michael is here with his wife, Debbie, this morning. He has been recording faithful music for more than two decades and won countless awards but he does not want the focus to be on him. He has always encouraged his fans, young and old, that faith is not a spectator sport. He has encouraged tens of thousands to sponsor children all over the world. We are happy to have two selections from him this morning. The first is "Above All."

Mr. Michael W. Smith: (sings) ["Above all powers above all kings"] (Applause)

Senator Enzi: Oh, how faith shines. Thank you, Michael. Everybody in life needs role models, including Senators. Senator Dianne Feinstein is that for many of the new members of the Senate. She personifies dignity and excellence in doing the people's work. She did that as the Mayor of San Francisco and she is certainly doing that in the Senate. To present a reading, our friend and colleague, Senator Dianne Feinstein of California.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein: Thank you very much Senator Enzi. Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, ladies and gentlemen.

Religion is a very personal thing to me. I have been privileged to draw on two of the world's great religions—one being Judaism, and the other, Catholicism. I went to a Catholic convent while I was going to a Jewish Sunday school. Some people would say that left me very confused. But nonetheless it was a very special experience. A very young rabbi wrote what I am going to read. It is now part of Reformed Judaism's prayer book and is used in the High Holy Day services. I would like to share it with you.

"Birth is a beginning, and death a destination and life is a journey: From childhood to maturity, and youth to age. From innocence to awareness, and ignorance to knowing. From foolishness to discretion and then perhaps to wisdom. From weakness to strength or strength to weakness and often back again. From health to sickness and back we pray to health again. From offense to forgiveness. From loneliness to love. From joy to gratitude. From pain to compassion and grief to understanding. From fear to faith. From defeat to defeat, to defeat until looking backward or ahead we see that victory lies not at some high place along the way but in having made the journey stage by stage a sacred pilgrimage. Birth is a beginning and death a destination and life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage to life everlasting."

Thank you. (Applause)

U.S. Representative Bart Stupak: I am Bart Stupak, co-chair of the House Prayer Breakfast. In my sixteen years in the house this is the second time that I have had the honor to address you from the dais. Some things never change—the National Prayer Breakfast remains heavy on prayer and light on breakfast. (Laughter) As we join in fellowship, filled with the Holy Spirit, I ask that you remember two House members who were devoted to the Prayer Breakfast and who are no longer with us, Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis and Congresswoman Julia Carson. We miss them. Now let me turn the podium over to my co-chair, friend and colleague, Gresham Barrett of South Carolina.

U.S. Representative J. Gresham Barrett: Good morning. Two things—number one, we