

02/08-09/08—Dauphin County, Cumberland County.

02/11/08—Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, Dauphin County.

02/18/08—Chester County, Delaware County.

02/19/08—Allegheny County, Washington County.

02/20/08—Allegheny County.

02/21/08—Montgomery County.

02/22/08—Chester County.

02/29/08—Montgomery County.

03/08/08—Montgomery County.

03/10/08—Lackawanna County, Dauphin County.

03/15/08—Delaware County, Montgomery County.

03/16/08—Chester County.

03/17/08—Berks County, Montgomery County.

03/21/08—Chester County.

03/22/08—Lehigh Valley, Luzerne County, Northampton County.

03/27/08—Allegheny County.

03/28/08—Allegheny County, Armstrong County, Delaware County.

03/29/08—Delaware County.

03/31/08—Montgomery County.

04/04/08—Dauphin County, Cumberland County.

04/07/08—Allegheny County.

04/14/08—Lehigh Valley, Dauphin County, York County.

04/18/08—Allegheny County.

04/19/08—Allegheny County.

04/21/08—Bucks County.

VISITS/LEGISLATION ON DEPORTATION OF CRIMINAL ALIENS

Introduced S. 2720 on March 4th to deny visas and foreign aid to countries which refuse to take back their criminal aliens.

VISITS

February 8, 2008 at SCI Camp Hill.

February 11, 2008 at the Luzerne County Prison.

February 18, 2008 at the Chester County Prison.

February 19, 2008 at the Allegheny County Prison.

March 31, 2008 at the Philadelphia County Prison.

April 4, 2008 at the Dauphin County Prison.

FOREIGN TRAVEL

December 22, 2007-January 3, 2008 (Israel, Pakistan, Jordan, Syria, Austria, and Belgium).

Dec. 23-26 (Israel)—Met with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, President Shimon Peres, Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, and Defense Minister Ehud Barak.

Dec. 25 (West Bank)—Met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, and Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat.

Dec. 26-28 (Islamabad, Pakistan)—Met with President Pervez Musharraf, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Tariq Majid, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Scheduled to meet with Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto on Dec. 27 at 9 PM—she was assassinated three hours earlier.

Dec. 29-30 (Damascus, Syria)—Met with President Bashar al-Assad, Foreign Minister Walid al-Mouallem, and opposition leader Riad Seif.

Dec. 30-Jan. 2 (Vienna, Austria)—Met with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohammed ElBaradei.

Jan. 2-3 (Brussels, Belgium)—Met with US Ambassador to NATO Victoria Nuland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. First, let me join in the condolences for our colleague,

Senator Thomas. Let me also recognize what for many of us is a sad anniversary of a day when one of America's brightest lights was extinguished and a distinguished Member of this body was lost.

You have heard him described as a good and decent man who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it.

IRAQ WAR INTELLIGENCE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, 5 years ago President Bush and this administration misled this country into a war that should never have been waged, a war that has cost our Nation the lives of more than 4,000 courageous men and women, squandered many hundreds of billions of our tax dollars, and diminished the world's faith in our country.

This morning, the Senate Intelligence Committee, led by our distinguished chairman, Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER of West Virginia, released a report confirming what many have long feared: that the Bush administration ignored or swept aside substantial reliable intelligence that portrayed something other than what the President and his political allies wanted America to see.

The decision to take the Nation to war, as Chairman ROCKEFELLER indicated, is among the gravest and most momentous that a leader can make. In our democracy, we expect and deserve to be sure that when our troops are sent in harm's way, when their families are made to watch and wait through sleepless nights, when our security and national welfare is put on the line, that that decision has been taken for the right reasons. This is a sacred compact, an article of faith between our people and our Government.

This administration broke that compact, betrayed that trust. For years, the evidence has been mounting that this administration's reasons for the war were a sham. This week, the President's own former spokesman indicated that the White House ran a "political propaganda campaign" building the case for war.

This morning's report is a chilling reminder of the Bush administration's willingness to overlook or set aside intelligence that does not confirm to its preordained view of the world. Over and over, again the committee documented instances in which public statements by the President, the Vice President, and members of the administration's national security team were at odds with available intelligence information. By leading the American people to believe the situation in Iraq was significantly more drastic than it actually was, the Bush administration took this country into an unnecessary war, a war it still refuses to end.

In a speech in Cincinnati a little over a year after al-Qaida attacked America on September 11, President Bush said:

We know that Iraq and al-Qaida have had high-level contacts that go back a decade. We have learned that Iraq has trained al-Qaida members in bomb-making and poisons and deadly gasses.

In his 2003 State of the Union Address, a few short weeks before giving the order that began this war, the President said:

Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications and statements by people now in custody, reveal that Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of al-Qaida.

It was not true. The President of the United States told these things to our people and to the world, and they were false.

According to the report released this morning by our committee:

Statements and implications by the President and Secretary of State suggesting that Iraq and al-Qaida had a partnership or that Iraq had provided al-Qaida with weapons training were not substantiated by the intelligence.

The committee found that multiple CIA reports and a National Intelligence Estimate, released in November 2002, even as the administration was in the drumbeat to war, "dismissed the claim that Iraq and al-Qaida were cooperating partners." It was not true, and yet this President used this claim to convince the American public that there was a link between the Iraqi Government and the terrorists that perpetrated the crimes of September 11, 2001.

Again, in an October 2002 speech in Cincinnati, the President said:

We know that the regime has produced thousands of tons of chemical agents, including mustard gas, sarin nerve gas, VX nerve gas. Saddam Hussein also has experience in using chemical weapons. . . . Every chemical and biological weapon that Iraq has or makes is a direct violation of the truce that ended the Persian Gulf war in 1991. Yet, Saddam Hussein has chosen to build and keep these weapons despite international sanctions, U.N. demands, and isolation from the civilized world.

The report concludes:

Statements by the President and Vice President prior to the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate regarding Iraq's chemical weapons production capabilities and activities did not reflect the intelligence community's uncertainties as to whether such production was ongoing.

The intelligence community knew Saddam Hussein wanted to be able to produce chemical weapons. It could not, however, confirm President Bush's claim of certainty that Hussein's regime was actually producing chemical weapons. Yet the President made that argument, stirring up unfounded fears among the American people.

This administration not only asserted that Saddam Hussein possessed chemical weapons and intended to use them, the President also said in his speech on October 2002:

We could wait and hope that Saddam does not give weapons to terrorists, or develop a nuclear weapon to blackmail the world. But I'm convinced that is a hope against all evidence.

He said:

We cannot wait for the final proof—the smoking gun—that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud.

Mr. President, again, it was not true. The committee's report states:

Statements by the President and the Vice President indicating that Saddam Hussein was prepared to give weapons of mass destruction to terrorist groups for attacks against the United States were contradicted by available intelligence information.

At the time of the President's speech, the intelligence community believed Saddam Hussein did not possess nuclear weapons. The President preyed on Americans' fears of a nuclear attack, perhaps the most terrible fear we could have, to bolster his case for an unwarranted war.

Finally, the President led the American people to believe if it came to war in Iraq, America's military would easily help liberate a grateful nation. In Cincinnati, in 2002, he said:

If military action is necessary, the United States and our allies will help the Iraqi people to rebuild their economy, and create the institutions of liberty and a unified Iraq at peace with its neighbors.

This was the "hope against all evidence."

Analysis by the Defense Intelligence Agency assessed that:

The Iraqi populace will adopt an ambivalent attitude toward liberation.

That is an understatement.

The CIA wrote, in August 2002, that "traditional Iraqi political culture has been inhospitable to democracy."

According to the committee's report:

Statements by President Bush and Vice President CHENEY regarding the postwar situation, in Iraq in terms of the political, security, and economic [situation], did not reflect the concerns and uncertainties expressed in the intelligence products.

The view of the President and Vice President that American troops would be "greeted as liberators" did not take into account the complex social, political, and sectarian dynamics at work about which the intelligence community was well aware. Yet this administration still led the American people to believe our troops would be welcomed, that the war would be short, that the burden in lives and dollars would be light, and that victory would be absolute. This delusion has cost our service men and women and our Nation every day since. Once again, it was not true. It just was not true.

If this administration had made the least effort to give an honest review of classified intelligence, it would have been known to be untrue. All too often in these 7 long years we have seen this administration cast aside facts and principles that did not conform with its political aims.

We have seen it attempt to take great institutions of our country—our intelligence community, our Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Justice—and twist them to its own ends, without due regard for the welfare of the American people. I be-

lieve the irresponsibility and mismanagement of this administration will go down in our history as among the darkest moments our Government has witnessed. It rocks the very fiber of democracy when our Government is put to these uses. We do not yet know all the damage that has been done. Yet we hope, through the efforts of this committee and this body, to continue the long and difficult repair work we have begun.

We can look ahead to next January when we in our Nation can begin again with a new administration, an administration that will not break the essential compact of honesty with the American people.

READING IS FUN WEEK

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, let me briefly compliment the Senate staff for their patience and diligence yesterday when put to the task of reading the bill. I know it was Reading Is Fun Week in Rhode Island from May 12 to May 18. I guess the minority found an interesting way of making it "Reading Is Fun Day" in the Senate yesterday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time to urge my colleagues to put aside our partisan differences. Let's follow the leadership of Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator WARNER, and Senator BOXER and find a way to move forward with the global warming legislation. It is so important to this country.

The scientific information is clear. There is something happening out there. We all know about it. We know the weather changes. We see extreme weather taking place—the droughts, the floods, the impact it is having on our food chain, the drought in Australia with the wheat crop and what it has done with bread prices. In my State of Maryland we see the warming of the Chesapeake Bay and the impact it has on blue crabs with the eelgrass which is critically important for juvenile crabs not being there.

The Governor imposed a restriction on the taking of blue crabs during this season. I could give 100 more examples.

If I can't convince my colleagues on the science, let me refer to an issue on which we can all agree; that is, we need energy independence. Our global warming bill leads us to energy independence. We need energy independence for national security, so we are not dependent upon other countries. We need energy independence so we don't have to wake up every morning to find out what OPEC is doing that affects gasoline prices in the United States. We need energy independence for our environment.

This legislation uses market forces to solve the problem of greenhouse

gases. We did that with acid rain, and it worked, far less expensively than the projections, and the benefit ratio to cost was 40 to 1. If we unleash our economy, we can solve this problem.

Let me state the obvious: When we invest in renewables—and this legislation does—we invest in energy efficiency. If we invest in public transportation, we are going to have less use of gasoline by Americans—yes, less use of oil. If we have less use of oil, gasoline prices are going to go down, supply and demand. If we have less use of oil, we are going to be less dependent on other countries. If we use less oil, we control our own economic future.

But this legislation goes further than that, providing assistance for, perhaps, consequences we can't fully understand. So we provide help to heavy industry. Maryland is a proud manufacturing State. It has a great history of manufacturing. I want to make sure Maryland has a future in manufacturing. This legislation deals with that, providing help to our industries. We don't know exactly what impact it is going to have on different constituencies. The legislation provides help for consumers. Just as importantly, this legislation provides that it is deficit neutral; that we will make sure we don't have to borrow more money. In fact, this legislation will mean Americans will borrow less. It is good for our economy.

Another part of this bill I found very helpful and that hasn't received a lot of attention is that we establish a level playing field so if other countries don't put a cap on their carbon emissions, they have to pay a tariff to bring their product to America, so that we don't put American manufacturers, producers, or farmers at a competitive disadvantage.

There is one particular section of this bill I would like to underscore and I am particularly proud of because I introduced the amendment in committee and worked with Senator BOXER, and that is the public transit provisions. It provides over \$170 billion during the life of the bill to build stronger public transportation in America. One-third of all CO₂ emissions come from transportation. But in the last 15 years, 50 percent of the increase in our emissions have come from the transportation sector.

The projected growth in the next 30 years of vehicle traffic alone would negate all the benefit from the CAFE standard increases we passed last year if we don't take more aggressive steps to get cars off the road. Public transportation is critically important. It reduces emissions.

People are interested in public transportation. Since 1995, we have seen a 32-percent increase in ridership, 10.3 billion passenger trips in 2007. In the first quarter of this year, there has been a 3.3-percent increase in public transportation. That is 85 million more trips on public transportation. The problem is the physical infrastructure