

time to be bound and held back by history. It is time to make new history. It is time to begin a new chapter in the relations of our two countries.

I hope the Obama administration and the Cuban Government will seize this opportunity to do just that—to modernize, to move ahead, recognizing always and foremost that Cuba is a sovereign nation. They will not be dominated by America or any other country. We have to deal with them just as we do any other sovereign nation.

GUANTANAMO

I will conclude by saying I had an opportunity on a trip with Senator TESTER and two other Senators to visit the Guantanamo Bay detention center. We toured Camps 5 and 6, which house the majority of the detainees held at Guantanamo. We also had a tour of the facilities that hold high-value detainees, including Khalid Shaikh Mohammed.

Based on my own observations on my tour of Guantanamo and reports I read about previous conditions, it does appear that detainees are being treated more humanely now than previously and that conditions at Guantanamo are in line with how the detainees would be treated if they were held in the United States.

However, this trip reinforced my long-held conviction that the detention facility at Guantanamo should be closed as soon as possible. Its very existence—remote, offshore, not subject to the laws of the United States—makes it impossible to justify its existence. That is why I introduced a bill to close the facility as far back as 2007. That is why I continue to believe Federal courts and Federal prisons are fully capable of dealing with these detainees.

The indefinite detention of hundreds of individuals—some for over 13 years at this point—has harmed our image abroad, complicated relations with friendly countries, and I think really violates the basic principles of our Constitution. It is not acceptable. And the existence of this facility cannot be justified when there is an alternative—and there is.

I am not alone in advocating for this prison's closure. Military and foreign policy officials across the political spectrum have made it clear that we must close the detention center at Guantanamo. Leaders including Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, James Baker, Madeline Albright, Warren Christopher, Robert Gates, David Petraeus, and CIA Director John Brennan have all said closing the detention center at Guantanamo is critical to our national security.

Yet I have no illusions regarding these detainees. Some are extremely dangerous terrorists with the determination and the ability, if given the opportunity, to inflict great harm on the United States and its citizens. But, indeed, prisons in the United States are already holding many of the world's most dangerous terrorists—criminals

who have been found guilty in a court of law. These include Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing; Zacarias Moussaoui, the 9/11 coconspirator; and Richard Reid, the Shoe Bomber. If we can successfully try these terrorists in courts and hold them in our prisons, we can do the same with the Guantanamo detainees.

In closing, I think it is long past due that we reexamine our policy toward Cuba. I call upon the Obama administration to not waste any more time. Get to it. Let's change our policy. Let's start making new history and not be detained by the old history. Secondly, it is time that we close the prison in Guantanamo.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WILLIE F. JOHNSON

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as I have every year since I came to the Senate now 8 years ago, I rise today to commemorate Black History Month by paying tribute to a distinguished American. This year we are privileged to recognize Willie F. Johnson, a man who has enriched both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our Nation through civic engagement and successful entrepreneurial endeavors.

Willie Johnson's contributions both as a citizen and as the founder and chairman of PRWT Services, Inc.—one of the oldest and most significant minority-owned businesses in the United States—are a credit to both him and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Today I am proud to share some of Willie's achievements and the examples he and PRWT have set of responsible corporate citizenship. PRWT does it all. It employs over 1,500 people, makes money for its shareholders, and still manages to give back to its community and its other stakeholders to an extent that few other for-profit companies ever achieve.

Throughout his career, Willie Johnson has remained committed to his roots in social services and has never lost sight of the importance of the social and community impact of his work. Willie Johnson's professional life stands as a testament to his values.

After graduating from Allen University in South Carolina with a degree in sociology, he earned a master's of social work from the University of Pennsylvania while serving as a house parent for the Philadelphia Development Center, a residential facility for young offenders. Willie pursued a long career in social services after graduating, working for 18 years as the regional commissioner of the Office of Social Services in the southeastern region of Pennsylvania, director of Youth Services Coordinating Office for the city of Pennsylvania, and finally as executive director of the Office of Employment and Training under the Office of the

Mayor of Philadelphia. So he has served both our Commonwealth and the city of Philadelphia in that work.

After years of serving the people of Philadelphia as a social administrator, Willie's commitment to job creation led him to consider whether he might be better able to benefit his community as an entrepreneur. So in 1983 he worked with partners to found Fidelity Systems, a cable/line construction company that hired and trained local residents to lay cable and work in equipment warehouses. Through this work, Willie became acquainted with the president of the Lockheed Martin company, who was interested in using technology to help State and local governments manage their businesses.

In August of 1988 Willie joined with Paul Dandridge, Raymond A. Saulino, and William Turner to establish PRWT Services, Inc., which we now know by the acronym PRWT. PRWT received its first contract in its first year, providing parking services for the city of Philadelphia. The company would go on to secure a significant contract from Lockheed Martin, providing customer service and back-office staff to support Lockheed's technology, drawing on the workforce management expertise of Willie Johnson and his partners to better manage these resources.

Over the years, PRWT expanded to provide business process outsourcing services for a variety of industries as well as serve many State and municipal governments nationwide. During Willie Johnson's two-decade tenure as CEO, PRWT grew to employ more than 1,500 workers in eight States and the District of Columbia.

In 2001 PRWT acquired U.S. Facilities, Inc. That acquisition marked one of the first purchases of a publicly traded company by a minority-run business.

In 2008 a PRWT subsidiary became the first minority-owned manufacturer of pharmaceutical ingredients in the United States of America.

In 2008, after experiencing a 120-percent increase in revenues, PRWT made the decision to become a publicly traded and owned company. Mindful of their significant role as a successful minority-owned business, Willie and his partners made their first public offering while maintaining majority shares to ensure that the company remained minority owned and run. Willie remains chairman of PRWT's board of directors, which has maintained its leadership and minority-owned status throughout the process of diversifying.

As PRWT has expanded, Willie and his partners have maintained a focus on the community impact of their work. PRWT is generous with charitable contributions and investments and encourages its employees to volunteer and remain engaged in their communities. Willie has been just as engaged and committed to service outside of his work with PRWT. He serves on the boards of a number of national and Pennsylvania-based organizations,

including the Philadelphia Tribune, which, as we all know, has been a leader of the Black press throughout its history, as well as a variety of educational institutions, including his alma mater Allen University, the Cheyney University Foundation, Girard College, and Community College of Philadelphia. Willie has contributed his significant business expertise to the boards of the African American Chamber of Commerce and the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, where he serves as a member of the executive committee. He has also continued his commitment to employment and job creation through his prior service as chair of the Transitional Work Corporation and membership on the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation Board.

It should surprise no one that Willie Johnson and PRWT have been consistently recognized for their significant accomplishments and contributions. In the year 2001 PRWT received the U.S. Conference of Mayors Excellence in Public/Private Partnership Award. Black Enterprise Magazine has ranked PRWT in the top 100 for the past 9 years and in 2009 named them the Industrial/Service Company of the Year. In that same year, 2009, Ernst & Young honored Willie as Entrepreneur of the Year in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Willie has noted that “there is something very unique about Black enterprise: most Black enterprises develop and grow within their own community and within their own region because they are depending on their relationships.” It is this dedication to community engagement which is a critical part of Willie Johnson’s story and the story of PRWT, and it is that community engagement and commitment that we honor today.

Willie Johnson has been a dedicated public servant, a trailblazer for Black business enterprise, and a deeply engaged citizen. Willie’s path has touched the lives of many in our Commonwealth and our country. In building a world-class entrepreneurial, diversified company, while also remaining a responsible corporate citizen dedicated to community betterment, Willie and his partners have built PRWT into an example of the best corporations have to offer. So today, as we come to the end of the month that commemorates Black history, we express our gratitude for the important work Willie Johnson has done throughout his life in service to the people of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our great Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 12 minutes.

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

CUBA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, a few minutes ago the body was treated to a report by the Senator from Iowa about his recent trip to Cuba. It sounds as if he had a wonderful trip visiting what he described as a real paradise. He bragged about a number of things he learned on his trip to Cuba which I would like to address briefly.

He bragged about their health care system: Medical schools are free, doctors are free, clinics are free; their infant mortality rate may be even lower than ours.

I wonder if the Senator, however, was informed that, No. 1, the infant mortality rate of Cuba is completely calculated on figures provided by the Cuban Government. And by the way, totalitarian Communist regimes don’t have the best history of accurately reporting things. I wonder if he was informed that the forecast showed that Cuba was 13th in the whole world in infant mortality. I wonder if the government officials who hosted them informed him that in Cuba there are instances reported—including by defectors—that if a child only lives a few hours after birth, they are not counted as a person who ever lived and therefore don’t count against the mortality rate.

I wonder if our visitors to Cuba were informed that in Cuba any time there is any sort of problem with a child in utero, they are strongly encouraged to undergo abortions, and that is why they have an abortion rate that skyrockets and some say is perhaps the highest in the world.

I also heard him talk about the great doctors they have in Cuba. I have no doubt they are very talented. I met a bunch of them. You know where I met them? I met them in the United States because they have defected. Doctors would rather drive a taxicab than be a doctor in Cuba.

I wonder if they spoke to him about the outbreak of cholera they have been unable to control or the three-tiered system of health care that exists where foreigners and government officials get health care that is much better than what is available to the general population.

I also heard him speak about baseball. I know Cubans love baseball since my parents are from Cuba and I grew up in a community surrounded by it. He talked about the great baseball players coming from Cuba, and they are. I wonder if they informed him—in fact, I bet they didn’t talk about those players to him because every single one of those guys playing in the Major Leagues defected. They left Cuba to play here.

He also talked about how people would come up to him in the streets and not a single person said anything negative about America. Nobody came up to him wagging their finger, saying, you Americans and your embargo are hurting us. I am glad to hear that because everyone who wants to lift the

embargo is constantly telling us that the Castros use that to turn the people against us. So obviously that is not true. I am glad to hear confirmation of what I already knew to be true.

I heard about their wonderful literacy rate and how everyone in Cuba knows how to read. That is fantastic. Here is the problem: They can only read censored stuff. They are not allowed access to the Internet. The only newspapers they are allowed to read are Granma or the ones produced by the government. I wish someone on that trip would have asked the average Cuban: With your wonderful literacy skills, are you allowed to read the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal or, for that matter, any blog? The answer is no.

It is great to have literacy, but if you don’t have access to the information, what is the point of it? I wish somebody would have asked about that on that trip.

We heard about Mr. Gross, who is not in jail. He is not a prisoner. He is a hostage. In the speech I heard a moment ago, I heard allusions to the idea—he didn’t say it, but I know the language. I know the code. He made the allusion that maybe there should be a spy swap. Here is the problem: Mr. Gross is not a spy. Do you know what his crime was, if that is what you can call it? He went to Cuba to hand out satellite radios to the Jewish community. We are glad to hear the Cubans are so nice to him that they let him walk 10,000 steps a day, do pullups, and build a necklace out of bottle cap tops. It is very nice that they allow him to do those things. How generous.

I wonder if anybody asked about terrorism, because Cuba is a state sponsor of terrorism. I wonder if anybody asked about the fact that just a few months ago a North Korean ship going from Cuba to North Korea was stopped in the Panama Canal, and it contained items in violation of international sanctions against the government in North Korea.

A report just came out confirming what we already knew, that North Korea has death camps and prison camps. The Cubans are allowing them to evade these sanctions. Did that come up in any of the wonderful conversations in the socialist paradise of the Caribbean? I bet it didn’t.

Let me tell you what the Cubans are really good at. They don’t know how to run their economy, they don’t know how to build a country, and they don’t know how to govern a people. What they are really good at is repression. What they are really good at is shutting off information to the Internet, radio, television, and social media. That is what they are really good at. They are not just good at it domestically, they are good exporters of these things.

Do you want to see Exhibits A, B, C, and D? I will show them to you right now. They have exported repression in real time in our hemisphere right now.