

a problem in another season. Perhaps there is still time in some cases to be of assistance in this season. It is a plan and a program that has been in place and has worked over the years. We need to continue to allow people to participate in that plan.

I urge us to move forward and address the problem and make some kind of solution and not let it just die out and impact visitors, as well as employees and employers, in places such as Jackson, WY, and other places where people come for the summer.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. As a Senator from the State of Wyoming, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m., recessed until 2:17 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Ohio, I observe that a quorum is not present.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALLARD. 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. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to 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.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I 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. ALLARD. 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.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to report to you and our colleagues on the latest Board of Visitors meeting for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Ordinarily, I don't do this, but in light of what has been happening for the last year and several months as far as the Air Force Academy, I feel compelled to give a report to the Senate to keep it updated on how matters are progressing at the Air Force Academy.

The Board of Visitors primary responsibility is advisory at the Academy. But in the process of monitoring the administration of the Academy and to be a voice for the students at the Academy, the Board of Visitors meets in mid-May at the Academy to review the activities of the Academy, assess current programs, discuss current disciplinary issues, and address proposed congressional legislation impacting the Academy and the Board of Visitors.

First, let me say I was pleased by the attendance and contribution of the board members and welcomed involvement of the board's newest members, including Senator MARK PRYOR. It is clearly apparent that the board is united in its purpose and serious about its responsibilities.

The meeting we had here was probably the best board meeting we have had since I have had the honor to serve on the Board of Visitors at the Air Force Academy.

Let me also say that Governor Gilmore continues to provide exceptional leadership and has done an excellent job of keeping the board on track and focused.

During the meeting, Air Force and Academy leaders briefed the board on several important issues. First, the board discussed the retention rates of the Academy graduates. Based on the statistics provided by the Air Force, it appears the Academy graduates have high retention rates, including in some professions rates of nearly 50 percent. Retention rates for Academy graduates continue to be higher than ROTC and OTS graduates.

Next, we discussed recent climate surveys. The Academy is wisely surveying faculty, civilian staff, and administrative staff, as well as the cadets. The Department of Inspector General also surveyed the cadet body in April. The result of the surveys is expected in July.

The Academy did share some preliminary results which include improvements regarding respect for women, the use of alcohol, and improved response to sexual assaults.

The new officer development program currently being implemented appears to be making a difference. Under this new system, cadets are taught leadership skills each year instead of just in their first years. This new system is consistent with that being used at the West Point and the Naval Academy.

Lastly, the board discussed three legislative proposals. I plan to work with the leadership on these proposals, perhaps as amendments, sometime during the deliberations on this bill. The first proposal would require the dean of the faculty for the Air Force to have some

prior military service. The second proposal would repeal the requirement that the Academy superintendent retire after serving the Academy. The Board of Visitors indicated its support for these two proposals.

The third proposal would have structured the Board of Visitors. At this time, this proposal requires additional work. I look forward to working with Chairman WARNER on refining that particular proposal.

I take a moment to compliment the superintendent of the Air Force Academy, Superintendent Rosa, and also his commandant, General Weida, who stepped in at a very difficult time at the Air Force Academy. They have shown exemplary leadership in working with the student body and charting out a new course for the Air Force Academy. It is a course that will allow oversight bodies, including members of the Armed Services Committee in both the House and the Senate, the Secretary of the Air Force, the President, and the members of the Board of Visitors, to review what is happening at the Academy. In other words, they have put a system in place that is much more accountable, which will make it easier for those who have the responsibility of oversight at the Air Force Academy to follow what is actually happening.

I thank the Congress for its concern about the welfare of the students at the Academy and for the opportunity to discuss the latest Board of Visitors meeting.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HAITI

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, last week, my wife and I had the opportunity to spend 3 days in the troubled country of Haiti. I want to take a couple of minutes to report to my colleagues about the situation in Haiti. I believe it is particularly of importance because the United States still has troops in Haiti, and we had the opportunity to visit with a number of these wonderful young men and women.

Our trip coincided with the horrible flooding that occurred last week in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In fact, I had the chance to fly out with our troops to a village in Haiti, Fonds Verettes, about 35 miles east of Port-au-Prince. I saw our troops doing a tremendous job to take food and water and shelter to the Haitians who had been devastated by this flooding.

Our trip was also timely because it is during this period of time that our troops are beginning to leave Haiti, or were scheduled to begin to leave Haiti,

and the U.N. troops are scheduled to start to come in. The country in this endeavor will be Brazil.

Let me make a few observations first, starting with the flooding. As I said, I went out to this village, Fonds Verettes. What I saw when I got there was just an absolutely unbelievable sight. I saw a village that was in ruins. I had the opportunity to talk to several of the victims. I talked to a man who told me he had lost four of his children. Absolutely unbelievable. He lost four of his children, and he was still in a state of shock and could barely talk above a whisper. It is hard to believe that someone could lose four kids. We talked also to a woman by the name of Luciani Joseph. She was just sitting on a box when we saw her. It was the only possession I think she had left in the world. We walked up to her and talked to her. She had lost her 6-year-old son. I know in that village there were dozens and dozens of other stories. Well over 100 people had lost their lives, and hundreds and hundreds of people lost every possession they had.

The only good news, I guess, is that U.S. troops were in the country. The only way you could reach this village was because U.S. troops were there. We had helicopters, and that is how they were able to reach the village because nobody could have reached the village any other way. I believe it is important that our troops stay in Haiti until enough food and goods and relief is delivered to these small villages that have been impacted by this flood. There is no other country that has the resources down there. Nobody has the airlift capabilities besides the United States.

Again, what an inspiration it was to talk to our young men and women who were assisting in this flood. The seriousness of the flood that hit Haiti is indicative to us and the international community as to the problems Haiti faces. We have all read, I believe, that Haiti is a country that is 97 to 98 percent deforested. This didn't come up overnight; it is something that has happened over the years. This deforestation has exacerbated the seriousness of the flooding.

I had the opportunity to talk to the village leader of this community I visited, Father Pierre Etienne Belneau. I said: Father, what happened? Have you had floods before? He said: Yes, but never as serious as this. Each time a flood comes, each time the water comes, it is more serious. He said: There is the reason. He pointed up to the hills, the mountains. He said: They keep cutting down the trees. As recently as just after President Aristide left, people—sometimes not even from our area—came up and went into the national forest and cut down more trees.

When the water comes, he says, it just goes right down the mountain; there is nothing to stop it. It washes everything down into their village. This priest in this rural village under-

stood what has happened to Haiti—that Haiti is an ecological disaster.

So as we and the international community look to help the new Government of Haiti, if we are serious about long-term help for Haiti and the people of Haiti, reforestation of this country has to be part of that help. A sustainable agriculture is essential to the assistance of Haiti.

One of the great problems we find in Haiti is malnourishment. My wife Fran and I held children in our arms in Haiti on this past trip and previous trips, some of whom could be saved and some of whom, tragically, were not going to live. They were simply not getting nutritious food. They were not getting protein.

There are children all over Haiti who are not well fed, who are not getting enough to eat, who are not getting enough nutritious food. This is due to the fact that this country, which at one time was the crown jewel of the French empire as far as food production, today cannot produce a fraction of the food for its own people.

If we are talking about long-term assistance, what the United States and other countries have to do is help them develop a sustainable agriculture. It is one thing to give them food—and we should do that—but in the long run, what we really need to do is help them help themselves through better agricultural practices.

Now I will turn to another issue that we talked about when we were in Haiti. I had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Latortue. We had a very good conversation. The day I arrived the United States had just announced an additional \$100 million in assistance for the new Government of Haiti. This money will assist this Government to survive.

I think it is so very important for the new Government to show results to the people. The people are looking for results. In the short term, they are looking to have the lights on. They only have the lights on in Port-au-Prince 2 hours a day. They need the lights on and the garbage picked up. The Government needs to show that people who commit serious crimes will be arrested, they will be held accountable, and they will be brought to justice.

In the long run, Haiti must have good judicial reform. The police must be trained. A new police force must be stood up. They must develop good land titling so that people will know the land they own is truly theirs. They will not have good international investment until people know that if they invest in property, invest in land, they will be able to sustain that investment.

Another issue that was talked about a lot while I was in Haiti—I was approached by many business people, many political leaders—was their support for a bill that I have introduced in the Senate and that has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman CLAY SHAW, and that is the bill we call the Hero bill, a bill

that would give Haiti some trade preferences, a bill that would create tens of thousands of jobs in Haiti.

I cannot tell my colleagues how many people came up to me and said: Senator, please tell your colleagues we appreciate the aid, we appreciate the assistance, but if they really want to help Haiti and the Haitian people, what we need is jobs, and the way you can help us get jobs is to pass the bill that you have introduced. The Haitian people want to work. This bill will give us the opportunity to work.

Finally, if the new Haitian Government is to succeed, it can only succeed if there is security in the country. The U.S. Armed Forces who are in Haiti today will be phasing out over the next few weeks. They will be replaced by U.N. forces. It is imperative that the U.N. forces be at least as strong in their actions as the U.S. troops have been.

The U.N. troops will be tested. They will be tested by the thugs. They will be tested by the shamirs. They will be tested by Aristide's gangs. They will be tested by the rebels. In essence, they will be tested by both sides in what would have been a civil war. Let's keep in mind that the U.S. troops that came in and have done such a wonderful job for the last several months prevented a blood bath in Haiti. They prevented a civil war. The U.N. troops will have to be equally as strong, and when the U.S. forces leave and the U.N. troops come in, the U.N. troops will be tested.

The U.N. troops will have to be equally as strong, they will have to be tough, and they will have to fire back. If they do not, then Haiti will revert to chaos. So the next several months will be a very crucial time for these U.N. troops and a very crucial time for Haiti.

The one very good piece of news forthcoming during our trip was on the AIDS front. Haiti has been for some time a country that has had the highest incidence of AIDS. The good news is there have been doctors in Haiti who have been at the forefront in the battle against AIDS. Dr. Paul Farmer in the rural area and Dr. Bill Pape in Port-au-Prince have been at the forefront in the battle against AIDS, not just in Haiti but throughout the world.

We had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Pape on our most recent visit. He shared with me a statistic. The statistic is this: The incidence of AIDS in Haiti has now been cut in half. That is an astounding figure. It has been the result of some very aggressive work by a number of people.

I will come back to the Chamber sometime in the next few weeks to talk about this issue of AIDS in more detail because I think it is of such great importance. I think Haiti can be looked at as a model for the rest of the world as to how to dramatically cut the incidence of AIDS.

This poor country that certainly has not been governed very well in the last few years still managed in spite of that

to dramatically cut the incidence of AIDS. There is a lot to be learned from what has been going on in Haiti.

In addition to cutting the incidence of AIDS, we have also seen in Haiti the dramatic increase in the use of antiretroviral drugs.

So when my wife Fran and I walked into an orphanage run by the Sisters of Charity, whereas just a year ago none of the children who had AIDS were on antiretroviral drugs, this year when we came back and walked in we would see some of the children who were HIV positive, who were in need of drugs, who actually this time were on antiretroviral drugs.

We saw one little boy who we were told had come in just a few months before. He was very critically ill and he would have died but the sisters, because of Dr. Pape and because of good assistance coming in to Haiti, were able to get that child antiretroviral drugs and we saw a very healthy, chubby little boy running around this orphanage. Because of very good care from the nuns and because he has antiretroviral drugs, that boy is going to make it.

That is the type of miracle we are now beginning to see in Haiti, and I think it is something for which we can be very proud. That is what we want to see replicated around the world.

So when I come to the Senate floor and ask my colleagues to vote for more money for AIDS assistance around the world, it is that little boy I am going to be citing. It is this type of little boy who we can save around the world because if it can be done in a poor country such as Haiti, it can be done in other countries as well.

That is very good news coming out of Haiti from our last trip.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFFEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I am quite troubled by what we have seen happen over the course of the weekend with the storming of the residential complex in or near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the eastern portion of Saudi Arabia, the oil-producing portion of Saudi Arabia. The storming of this residential complex and the taking of hostages at a residential complex that held people from many nations portends of what is to come. That is very troubling to the United States and the world community.

In today's paper, I see headlines such as "Saudis storm complex to free hos-

tages." It says, "Saudi leaders say the recent attacks won't affect the oil supplies." Then in another piece in the same newspaper, it says, "Latest terror attack increases the doubts about the ability of Saudi Arabia to pump more oil."

Is it not interesting that we as a world community, and especially as the United States, have to be concerned about the pumping of that Saudi oil in order to feed the voracious appetite we have for energy. Is it not interesting the United States had some painful lessons we learned in the early '70s, and again in the late '70s, when the oil cartel locked down limited production and almost brought the industrialized world to its knees, and we became so much more dependent, realizing we needed that foreign oil to feed our appetite; that as a Nation, we said we are not going through this anymore; we are going to head on a path for energy independence. Then we lulled ourselves back into the seductive price of cheap oil and continued allowing our voracious appetite to go unabated, with the result that even though we have tried all kinds of alternative measures, the fact is we are importing more than half of our daily oil consumption, and that figure is moving upward to 60 percent of our daily oil consumption.

Right off the bat, that tells you that is not a good position to be in when it comes to the defensive interests of this country. Think how much of a freer hand we would have, as we conceive and develop our defense plans for this country, if we and the free industrialized world didn't have to depend on that oil coming out of that gulf region. But we are dependent. So when we see an attack by al-Qaida directly on those oil interests, we better start examining further the need for us to set energy independence as a major policy of the U.S. Government.

We know that the United States is, in fact, al-Qaida's target, but there should be no doubt now that Saudi Arabia is also the target of al-Qaida. It is a target where al-Qaida has a better chance of success because it has the desired goal of overthrowing the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi society presented them with many opportunities: weak institutions, an alienated population, and nearby terrorist operating bases. Al-Qaida's strategy is becoming increasingly clear. What they are doing is stoking the dissatisfaction of Saudi citizens with their government and the Royal Family by demonstrating the Royal Family's weakness by conducting their al-Qaida attacks in Saudi Arabia.

The attacks this past weekend indicate where they are now headed: to cut off Saudi Arabia's lifeline by destroying their oil facilities and diminishing their oil-producing capability. It is a strategy that has some chance of success. If the attack that happened this past weekend had interrupted the flow of Saudi oil, then the Saudi Royal

Family would, indeed, have some cause for concern that they could stay in power because overnight they would lose the one tool they have to keep some of the popular discontent in their country under wraps, and that is oil money.

The Saudi rulers have not helped matters over the years by ignoring the obvious, which is the threat to their own self-interest posed by Islamic extremists. Why? Because the Saudi Royal Family has played footsie for far too long with the radicals, thinking they could buy them off and paying money to the extremist religious schools, called madrasas, hoping that Saudi money, spread around the Muslim world where the most extreme ideology and hatred is taught, was going to buy them peace. But I think the Saudi Royal Family is beginning to wake up.

The United States has tried to be Saudi Arabia's defender. We had thousands of troops based over there in the 1990s. Clearly, when Saddam Hussein in the early nineties moved on Kuwait and it was very clear that he was intent on moving into Saudi Arabia, the United States responded. But Saudi Arabia did not like us having troops on their land. We did not particularly want to be there because we were the constant source of attack, such as the Khobar Towers bombing which took 19 American lives.

The United States could not build a defensive wall around Saudi Arabia to protect them—now especially that is so—even if we wanted to, which we don't, but that is especially so because many of the threats now come right from within Saudi Arabia itself. So all we can do is impress upon Saudi Arabia the need for reform in their society as quickly as they can to isolate the extremists, to institute democratic institutions, and to diversify their economy. But those prospects are not good because if the Saudi Royal Family were to fall and if it is succeeded by an Islamic radical regime, then I fear for the rest of the Middle East and the gulf region that we would see a risk of those regimes falling like dominos. With a radical Saudi successor regime in control of all that oil, one can imagine the damage it could do by holding the West hostage economically.

That is what we are facing. Sometimes we get lost in seeing the entire forest for the particular trees, but I think we need to pull back and see that this threat of radical terrorists is now being directed not only at us in the homeland, but it is being directed at a source of energy upon which the western industrialized world has become dependent. If the attacks we have seen just a few days ago do not convince us to curtail our addiction to oil, then I do not know what will.

Why don't we do some reasonable things? I remember the junior Senator from Massachusetts offering an amendment to do something real simple, such as lower the miles per gallon for SUVs,