

Negroponte will work hard to make the reforms necessary to help keep America safe.

Tonight, we have approved the final two members of the President's Cabinet, ROBERT PORTMAN to be USTR and Steve Johnson to the EPA. The President's Cabinet, as of a few minutes ago, is now complete.

Of course, tonight we had the budget. I congratulate Chairman JUDD GREGG. This, as I mentioned earlier this evening, is the fifth quickest conference report on the budget in history. The budget addresses spending head on. It is a strict budget from a fiscal standpoint. It addresses the short-term deficit by holding down discretionary spending, cutting the deficit in half in about 4 years. It addresses the outyear deficits driven by entitlements. It re-institutes the enforcement mechanism that will discipline spending. It is a fully transparent budget that accounts for the true war costs over the next year.

I look forward to returning to our work when we return from the recess. I am confident that with bipartisan determination we will get further work done. It has been an eventful month—a month of global and history-changing events. I am proud that under the leadership of President Bush, America has been at the forefront of freedom.

Over the recess, I will have the opportunity to travel to the Middle East to witness many events and learn firsthand the challenges facing the region—more specifically, the progress of the Israeli and Palestinian peace process. We will meet with key Israeli leaders in Israel and travel to Ramallah in the West Bank to meet with President Abbas and members of his Government.

We will also meet and listen to other voices in order to hear a wide range of views. Our goal is to listen and explore how we can help move the process forward and advance the cause of democracy.

We will also be visiting Jordan and Egypt, two important players in the Middle East peace process. They have endorsed the roadmap to peace and have shown by example that Arab peoples can live side by side with Israelis. They are also close friends of the U.S. and are allies of the global war on terrorism. Both countries are also pursuing much needed reforms. More needs to be done, not just because it is in our national security interest, but because it is in their people's interest. Transparency, continued movement toward democracy, economic freedom, and prosperity should be the goals of all governments in the region.

In all of these stops, we will meet with real, everyday people and see these cities and countries in action, whether it be visiting hospitals in Jerusalem or shopowners and business people in the West Bank.

Finally, we will also travel to Beirut to meet with key opposition leaders and current government leaders. Our goal is to underscore our unwavering

position that all Syrian intelligence and military personnel must leave Lebanon. Elections must be held on time and the Lebanese people must determine their own future through free and fair elections. The United States stands firmly behind the Lebanese people.

In closing, I wish my colleagues a safe and productive recess and look forward to resuming our work when we return.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Washington, like most of the Nation, is awash in green. Lawns are lush and verdant. The new leaves on the trees are bright green, soft, and whole—not yet the tough, sun- and insect-scarred veterans of late summer, but as delicate as a baby's skin. The dogwoods and lilacs are blooming, and the azaleas are putting on their magnificent show. In a few days, it will be May. May is a beautiful month in the Nation's capital, just as it is in the hills of West Virginia. It is, perhaps, the most beautiful month. It is a gentle, nurturing month, full of tenderness and promise.

It is fitting that such a month be graced with a day to honor mothers. Sunday, May 8th, is Mother's Day. On this day, tender thoughts of affection and gentle acts of kindness and appreciation are showered upon our mothers, who have sustained us all with their gentle hands, warm hearts, and forgiving natures.

To be sure, women have as many facets as a brilliantly cut diamond. They can be tough and demanding professionals, fierce competitors in any field of endeavor, stoic and enduring in the face of great hardship, and outstanding performers in the arts, medicine and science. The news as well as history is full of stories of the accomplishments of women. But on this one day, we celebrate the side of women that is most like this lovely month of May—the mothering side. It is the side that kissed our baby feet, that saved locks of hair from our first haircuts and our first baby teeth. It is the side whose tender touch soothed our hurts, whose unwavering belief in our talents sustained us through sports failures, painful piano recitals, and countless hours of practices and tantrums. It is the side that sang to us, baked us cookies, and patiently helped build our science project volcanoes out of soda bottles and plaster of Paris. It is the side that glowed as we received our diplomas, went out on our first dates, accepted our first jobs; the side that held us as we lost jobs, lost loved ones, lost faith in our dreams. Our mothers never lose faith. In business or at work, women might be efficient, even ruthless, judges, quickly assessing and sorting through problems, but at home, as mothers, we depend on their faith and support to find solutions for our problems.

Next weekend, mothers will be feted with cards, flowers, and Sunday brunches. They will begin to get some of the backlog of hugs that are their due, a down payment on the debt of gratitude we owe them for taking on such a monumental task. The only instruction that women receive on how to be a good mother comes from their own mother. It is a remarkable achievement that so many women learn this complex job so effortlessly, and manage to perform it so well. Women from around the globe, women who will never break a world record, invent a new technology, discover a new fact, will share with those record breakers in the phenomenally important job of motherhood. Society utterly depends on how well mothers and fathers manage the task of parenting. It is a heavy responsibility to lay upon such rank amateurs.

I can well recall the early days of my own marriage. I have been blessed to have been married to the same kind and forgiving woman for almost 68 years. We are now proud great grandparents. But nearly seven decades ago, we were the rankest of amateurs at marriage and parenthood. Erma has always been my touchstone. Her faith in me has never wavered, and she took to mothering me as effortlessly as she took to mothering our daughters. In Erma Ora James Byrd runs the blood of a great line of mothers—fierce in their devotion to their families, vigilant in their care, loving in their manner.

That same fierceness, vigilance, and devotion can be seen in women who bring their mothering skills to the office as well. I am so often impressed at the energy and ability of working mothers. Their ability to focus on their two big jobs—work and family—takes real dedication, precise time management, and grueling endurance. Single mothers require those qualities in even greater measure. They often do not have someone who can help with the homework, share in the driving to school and practices, take turns staying home with sick children, put the children to bed or read them stories, or do any of the so-called “father's jobs” of taking out the trash, mowing the lawn, fixing the car, or even drying the dishes. It takes superhuman strength to keep up that level of effort at home while still earning a living. I do not think that, as a society, we have made it easy for mothers, and especially for single mothers, to do their twin jobs. We need to find better ways to help women balance work and motherhood. We need their skills and talents in the workforce, but we also need their skills and talent at home, building our Nation's future.

I know of some women, in West Virginia and throughout the country, who have found themselves in the single mother category after the tragic loss of their husbands in battles in Afghanistan and Iraq. They have had to deal with their own and their children's grief, the loss of their husband's income, and making a new home for

themselves outside of the military, plus the sudden loss of their partner in childrearing. They and their children should not be forgotten after the furled flag is handed to them at a military funeral. We deservedly call their husbands heroes for the sacrifice they made for our Nation, but their families are left to be heroes each and every lonely day thereafter. They need and merit the support and comfort from all of us, on Mother's Day and every day.

Children are sometimes, and rightly, referred to as our greatest national treasure. They are our future, the great hope for the continued success and enduring values of our Nation. But if that statement is true, then it is also true that good mothers are our Nation's greatest national resource. Without mothers dedicated every day to this monumental task, our future would be bleak indeed. Though the Senate will not be in session next week, I am proud to call attention to the coming of Mother's Day. I hope that others will join me in applauding the noble calling of motherhood, and in recognizing the hard work and love that mothers demonstrate day after day.

I would like to close with a poem by Strickland Gillilan, called "The Reading Mother," as it speaks to the simple, lasting gifts that mothers give their children.

THE READING MOTHER

I had a Mother who read to me
Sagas of pirates who scoured the sea,
Cutlasses clenched in their yellow teeth,
"Blackbirds" stowed in the hold beneath.

I had a Mother who read me lays
Of ancient and gallant and golden days;
Stories of Marmion and Ivanhoe,
Which every boy has a right to know.

I had a Mother who read me tales
Of Gelert the hound from the hills of Wales,
True to his trust till his tragic death,
Faithfulness blent with his final breath.

I had a Mother who read me the things
That wholesome life to the boy heart
brings—

Stories that stir with an upward touch,
Oh, that each mother of boys were such!

You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be—
I had a Mother who read to me.

MR. GEORGE FUMICH, AN
OUTSTANDING WEST VIRGINIAN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to say goodbye to a remarkable friend, and an outstanding West Virginian, Mr. George Fumich, who passed away last week.

George Fumich was born in Pennsylvania, but he grew up in Morgantown, WV, and graduated from the West Virginia School of Law. Like so many who come to our State from elsewhere, he developed a passion for West Virginia that lasted a lifetime.

As an officer in the United States Army during World War II, he served in the Italian campaign. His division was the first to move into Rome and was instrumental in the liberation of that

magnificent city from Nazi occupation. He was later captured by the Germans in Northern Italy, but Italian partisans liberated him from his Nazi captors.

For his distinguished military service, George Fumich was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Silver Star, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, a POW medal, and as Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war, Mr. Fumich became corporate counsel for the Christopher Coal Company, and then began a successful political career. His political accomplishments included being elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates and serving as Senator John F. Kennedy's campaign manager for northern West Virginia during the historic 1960 West Virginia Democratic primary.

After Kennedy's election, Mr. Fumich began a successful career with the Federal Government. He served as Director of the Office of Mineral Exploration at the Department of Interior, as the first Director of the Office of Coal Research at the Interior Department, and from 1975 to 1977, he was the Director of Fossil Energy at the Energy Research and Development Administration. In 1977, he was appointed Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy.

After leaving the Federal Government, he was appointed Dean of the College of Mineral and Energy Resources, and then served as president of George Fumich Associates, an energy consulting firm.

His interest in coal, his love of West Virginia, and his devotion to West Virginia University all merged. Over the years, it has been rare to attend any event at which the coal, the State, and the university converge, without seeing George Fumich. He was an enthusiastic booster of anything he set about to promote, yet he had a gentle way about him that earned the trust and respect of others.

I will miss seeing George making the rounds at coal events here in Washington. His was a remarkable career for a remarkable man. This kind, brave and honorable man had been a military officer, a politician, a POW, a dean, an administrator, an attorney, a politician, and a Federal official. But above all else, he was a loving and caring father and husband who will be deeply missed by his multitude of friends, and his wonderful family, of which he was so proud.

West Virginia University alumni have lost an energetic supporter for all things WVU. The people of Clarksburg and Morgantown have lost a good neighbor. The State of West Virginia has lost an outstanding citizen. I have lost a dear friend.

My wife Erma and I extend our deepest heartfelt condolences to his wife of 46 years, Marie Fumich, and their children and grandchildren.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide.

This week marks the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the genocide that ultimately took the lives of one-and-a-half million Armenian men, women and children. On April 24, 1915, 200 Armenian religious, intellectual and political leaders in Constantinople were arrested by the Government of the Ottoman Empire and murdered. It was the beginning of the first genocide of the 20th century, and it continued until 1923. It was a vicious, organized crime against humanity that included murder, deportation, torture and slave labor.

The Armenian genocide was followed by a concerted effort to destroy any record of the Armenians in Asia Minor, including the destruction of religious and cultural monuments, and the changing of place names. I am saddened that there are those who would prefer to forget the Armenian genocide. To ignore it is to desecrate the memory of those who lost their lives. And such denial sends the message that genocide will be tolerated by the world.

To deny the genocide of the Armenians, or any atrocity of this scale, is to forsake the value we place on human life and the principles of liberty upon which this country is based. Those who turn a deaf ear to the Armenian genocide, knowingly or unknowingly, abet the future of genocide by failing to raise public consciousness about this tragic reality.

As we remember those whose lives were brutally taken during the Armenian genocide, we also pay tribute to the survivors, the living testimony of this historic crime, and to their families, many of whom are now Armenian-Americans. We must assure them that we, as the leaders of the democratic world, will not forget this tragedy, but rather gain the wisdom and knowledge necessary to ensure that we can prevent its repetition.

Recognizing the Armenian genocide takes on added importance in the face of the genocide occurring right now in the Darfur region of Sudan. As we pause to reflect upon this grievous example of man's inhumanity to man, let us honor the victims of the Armenian genocide and all crimes against humanity by not only acknowledging their suffering, but by acting to halt similar atrocities that are occurring now before our very eyes.

HONORING QUINCY, IL, MAYOR
CHARLES W. SCHOLZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to tell you about a friend of mine.

Chuck Scholz has three great loves in this world: his family, his faith and his community, Quincy, Illinois. On May 2,