

with everything that they need to come home from their missions abroad safely and securely. At the end of the day, that is a good start.

PROFILES IN COMPASSION: IOWANS PITCH IN TO HELP VIC- TIMS OF KATRINA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, Iowans are a big hearted, generous people, especially toward people in need. And citizens of my State proved this, once again, by extending a helping hand to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Some Iowans as individuals or in organized groups—traveled directly to the region to give assistance in their areas of expertise. Other collected funds and supplies to send to the gulf coast region. Still others helped to welcome more than 1,400 evacuees who made their way to Iowa. And, of course, countless Iowans reached into their bank accounts to contribute to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and other organizations participating in the relief effort.

I would like to mention at least a few of the individuals and groups that went far beyond the call of duty in the aftermath of Katrina.

Even before Katrina made landfall—within 2 hours of receiving an emergency call—the Iowa-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team based in Kirkwood, IA, began making its way to the gulf. Commanded by Dave Wilson, this team of rapid-response medical professionals set up headquarters in Bay St. Louis and Waveland, MS. In the first 14 days after the Hurricane hit, they took care of more than 2,700 patients. Their facilities were equipped to care for only 125 patients a day, but, on some days, the team cared for as many as 450 people.

Another Disaster Medical Assistance Team from Iowa, this one consisting of 30 members, helped to turn an abandoned hospital in Baton Rouge, LA into a full-fledged emergency room hospital. Key members of this team were Beth Boyd of Nevada, IA; Melissa Groet of Oskaloosa; and Kevin Long of Des Moines. A smaller crew from this DMAT team, all of them environmental health experts, deployed to rural Louisiana where they played a critical role in getting public water systems back online.

Some 140 members of the Iowa Army and Air National Guard deployed from Camp Dodge to the gulf region in a convoy of fuel tankers, water tankers, food and water trucks, and other much-needed equipment. Dubbed "Joint Task Force Iowa," their mission was to provide medical, logistics, and water-purification support in Mississippi. In addition, the 185th Air Refueling Wing of the Iowa National Guard provided evacuation, transport, security, and fuel-handling missions from its base in Sioux City.

Meanwhile, back in Iowa, thousands of Iowans went into action in those initial days and weeks after Katrina hit

the gulf. For example, the Iowa Jaycees collected enough supplies to fill 20 semi tractor trailers bound for Louisiana. Half of the semis carried clean drinking water, and the others carried diapers, baby wipes, batteries, hygiene products, canned food, and much more, all bound for Louisiana. Jaycee chapters all across Iowa contributed to this magnificent effort.

So many individual Iowans stood out as profiles in compassion during this difficult time. For example, Pastor Rod Bradley of the True Bible Baptist Church personally made three trips by car to pick up evacuees in Gonzales, LA. Wesley Jones traveled from Iowa to the gulf to help clear away debris. And school children in LeClaire, IA, helped evacuee children to adjust to their new school, and sold homemade bracelets to raise money for the evacuee families.

Mr. President, obviously, these are just snapshots. I cannot possibly name all the people from my State who gave generously of their time, talents, and energy to assist the victims of Katrina. Thousands of Iowans opened their hearts, their homes, and their pocket-books. I simply want to take this time to thank them—the named and the unnamed for their amazing response to this tragedy. They have done Iowa proud, and I am deeply grateful to them for their service and sacrifice.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS SECURITY ACT

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2005. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill.

When Timothy McVeigh drove a rental vehicle up to a Federal building in Oklahoma City, Americans began to look at trucks in a completely new way. So we learned to screen vehicles to safeguard against such a tragedy ever happening again.

On September 11, 2001, a thing as ordinary as an airplane became an instrument of destruction and terror, robbing innocent people of the rest of their lives. As a result, we have gotten pretty good at screening people and their luggage at airports, and at keeping planes out of protected air space.

While these changes are necessary and prudent, there is another part of the equation to consider: the act of terror not yet committed. We must look at the threats our security experts have identified and address these potential threats.

One such threat is a possible attack on our Nation's wastewater treatment plants. Traditionally, wastewater treatment plants have stored chemicals that, if used properly, clean the water of harmful organisms. When most of these plants were built, we did not design them to ward against use as potential weapons of mayhem and destruction. Appropriately, we were only concerned about the environment, safety, and preventing accidents.

Since September 11, as security concerns have been identified in this sector, many of these facilities have taken steps on their own to switch to safer alternative treatments or to further secure chemicals and the facilities against deliberate acts of terrorism. But, such changes are expensive. Many of these facilities need assistance to upgrade security at the facility and to switch to these safer alternative forms of treatment.

The Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2005 puts in place requirements to assess facilities' vulnerability and provides much needed financial assistance to upgrade security and to switch to safer forms of chemical treatment. My only regret is that the bill does not pick up more of the cost of the assessments and upgrades. I believe the Federal Government needs to take on a larger share of funding these types of homeland security improvements.

This is a much needed bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

LEAKGATE AND THE INDICTMENT OF LEWIS LIBBY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, 2 years ago, after the Washington Post first reported that "two senior White House officials" had exposed Valerie Plame Wilson's identity as a covert operative of the Central Intelligence Agency, I repeatedly came to the Senate floor to call on President Bush to act quickly to identify the leakers.

After all, this was a potentially illegal act committed by "senior White House officials." This should have outraged everyone at the White House. President Bush should have taken steps to identify the perpetrators forthwith.

Bear in mind that the number of "senior White House officials" with the appropriate security clearances and access to knowledge about Ms. Wilson's identity could be counted on one hand—two hands at a maximum. If Mr. Bush had been serious about identifying the perpetrators, those 5 to 10 "senior White House officials" could have been immediately summoned to the Oval Office and questioned by the President. This matter would have been resolved literally within 24 hours.

But that did not happen. There was no outrage. There was no internal investigation. There was no angry President Bush demanding answers from his senior aides. Instead, we have had more than 2 years of concealment, coverup, and contempt.

Well, Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald has now broken that coverup wide open. Vice President DICK CHEENEY's top aide, Scooter Libby, has been indicted for lying and obstructing justice in order to conceal his role as one of the two leakers. "Official A," the second leaker, is President Bush's top aide, Karl Rove, according to multiple reports in the media, quoting senior White House sources.

But let's be clear, Mr. President, this is about more than Mr. Libby repeatedly lying about his role in leaking a CIA agent's identity; this is about the Bush administration hiding the fact that it manipulated and manufactured intelligence in order to justify the war in Iraq. This is about the Bush administration stopping at nothing to attack and discredit anyone who dared to question its efforts to "fix" the intelligence. This is about the United States of America being led to war under false pretenses.

Only one person in this enterprise, Mr. Libby, has been indicted so far—though Mr. Rove remains under investigation. But the issue here is not strictly: Who perpetrated a criminal offense? The issue is: Who else participated in the hardball political campaign to discredit and punish Ambassador Wilson—and who instigated that campaign?

According to Mr. Fitzgerald's indictment, Vice President CHENEY's office was the hub of a concerted effort to gather information about Ambassador Wilson and to counter the assertions made in his famous New York Times op-ed. Indeed, according to the indictment, it was none other than Vice President DICK CHENEY himself who first told Mr. Libby about Valerie Plame Wilson's identity as a CIA operative and wife of Ambassador Joe Wilson.

Again according to the indictment, on July 12, 2003, Mr. Libby flew with the Vice President on Air Force Two, and one of the issues discussed on board was how to deal with the news media. Just hours later, the indictment says, Mr. Libby told two reporters about Mrs. Wilson's status as a CIA agent.

So this gives rise to several obvious questions: What did Vice President CHENEY know, and when did he know it? Why did Mr. Libby lie, saying that he first learned about Mrs. Wilson's identity from reporters? Was he trying to conceal a broader effort, involving the Vice President, to go after Ambassador Wilson?

Vice President CHENEY owes a full explanation to the American people.

Bear in mind that it was Mr. CHENEY who was most aggressive in pushing the CIA to come up with intelligence to justify an invasion of Iraq. The CIA told him definitively that there was no meeting in Vienna between Iraqi agents and 9/11 terrorist Mohammed Atta, but Mr. CHENEY continued to assert in public that this meeting took place. Time and again, he exaggerated the case for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, including his statement that Iraq had "reconstituted nuclear weapons." It was the Vice President and his aides who took the lead in responding to those who challenged those and other claims by the administration.

By all accounts, Mr. Libby was a disciplined, cautious staff person the antithesis of a rogue operator. It is far-fetched to imagine that he was free-

lancing when he outed Mrs. Wilson's identity as a CIA agent.

So the American people need to hear directly from Vice President CHENEY: Did he discuss with Mr. Libby whether to tell reporters about Mrs. Wilson's identity? When the Vice President read in the media that Mr. Libby had claimed that reporters first told him about Mrs. Wilson's identity, what did he say to Mr. Libby, given the fact that it was he, the Vice President, who first told Mr. Libby about Mrs. Wilson? Why has the Vice President not condemned the leaks and lies by his top aide?

It is very clear why Mr. Libby lied about who told him about Mrs. Wilson's identity. It was to frustrate, sidetrack, and stall Mr. Fitzgerald's investigation until after the 2004 election. As Mr. Fitzgerald said in announcing his indictment, if Mr. Libby had not thrown sand in the eyes of the prosecutors, "we would have been here in October 2004 instead of October 2005." So Mr. Libby's lies were not only about protecting his original source, Vice President CHENEY; they were also about delaying any indictments by Mr. Fitzgerald until after the election. They were about not allowing the election to become an "accountability moment," which very well could have denied President Bush reelection.

At the same time, we need an accounting from President Bush. Karl Rove is the President's closest adviser. We now know from multiple accounts in the media, citing senior administration sources, that Mr. Rove was one of the two "senior White House officials" who leaked Mrs. Wilson's identity as a CIA agent to reporters. Mr. Rove is still under investigation, and may or may not face indictment. But whether or not he is actually indicted, his actions were unethical and unacceptable.

Two years ago, we heard testimony from Vincent Cannistrano, former Chief of Operations and Analysis at the CIA Counterterrorism Center, on the far-reaching damage caused by the disclosure of Mrs. Wilson's identity. He said: "Twenty years of training and experience and millions of dollars were invested in this agent, Valerie Plame [Wilson]. . . . The consequences are much greater than Valerie Plame [Wilson's] job as a clandestine CIA employee. They include damage to the lives and livelihoods of many foreign nationals with whom she was connected, and it has destroyed a clandestine cover mechanism that may have been used to protect other CIA non-official cover officers."

Early on, President Bush stated that he would fire any White House official found to have been involved in leaking Mrs. Wilson's identity as a CIA agent. To this day, on the White House Web site, you can read the transcript of a press conference on June 10, 2004. A reporter asked: "Mr. President, do you stand by your pledge to fire anyone found to have [been involved in leaking the CIA agent's name]?" The President responded with an unambiguous "yes."

Today, the President needs to come clean about Mr. Rove's role. He needs to publicly acknowledge, as senior administration officials have already done anonymously, that Mr. Rove was the second leaker. And then he needs to make good on his pledge to fire him.

I urge President Bush—for the good of the country and for the good of his administration—to follow through on his public pledge. The President's original instincts were exactly right: It should be intolerable to allow someone who leaked a CIA agent's identity to stay on in the White House.

It is also deeply disturbing that Mr. Rove continues to hold a top-secret security clearance. Like all holders of a top-secret clearance, Mr. Rove signed a "Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement" acknowledging that "unauthorized disclosure, unauthorized retention or negligent handling of classified information by me could cause damage or irreparable injury to the United States." The signer of the form states: "I have been advised that any breach of this agreement may result in the termination of any security clearances I hold; removal from any position of special confidence and trust requiring such clearances; or the termination of my employment . . ."

Before signing the nondisclosure agreement, an employee is given training and a booklet explaining the nondisclosure rules, which include prohibitions against providing classified information—or even confirming it—to reporters.

The facts are plain: Mr. Rove violated the terms of his security clearance. If the White House disputes this, then it owes the American people a formal Justice Department investigation of Mr. Rove's actions. If it is determined that he violated the terms of his Nondisclosure Agreement, he should be stripped of his security clearance immediately. This is an issue entirely separate from Mr. Fitzgerald's ongoing investigation, but it is no less important.

I am sure that President Bush is concerned about the damage to his administration from the leaking of Mrs. Wilson's covert identity. A week ago, the Washington Post reported the results of its most recent poll. It found that by a ratio of 3 to 1—46 percent to 15 percent—Americans say that the level of honesty and ethics in the Government has declined since Mr. Bush took office.

I believe it is time for Mr. Rove to go. It is time for President Bush to restore honor and integrity to the White House and to demand the highest ethical standards from his staff.

President Bush still has more than 3 years in office. For our country to be successful, he must be successful. To that end, I urge the President to set a new tone and to chart a new course. He should begin by asking Mr. Rove to leave and by asking Vice President CHENEY to give a full and honest accounting of his role in this matter.