

reach some conclusions about the right and wrong response to the bombing.

I say to my colleagues, in order to understand the next steps we should be taking as a nation, you must try to put yourself in the mind of the terrorists to determine what they want. Based on all of the rhetoric and the history of terrorism in this region, there are, in my view, at least three things the terrorists want to have happen as a result of their attacks. First, they want to divide Saudi Arabia from the United States. Second, they want to force the United States out of Saudi Arabia. Third, they want to make it more difficult for the United States to deploy its forces overseas.

If these are in fact the goals of the terrorists, and I believe they are, some reactions in Congress and the media are playing right into the terrorists' hands. I have heard implications that cast doubt on the competence of the military chain of command to protect the troops. I have heard doubt cast on the sincerity and willingness of an important ally to cooperate with the United States. I have heard speculation about the stability of the government of that important ally. If I were the terrorist, I'd be pleased at these reactions and be confident that one more spectacular attack might just be good enough to finish the job and drive the Americans out of the region.

I say to my colleagues, these are not the appropriate responses when we are at war. And believe me, whoever they may be, the terrorists have declared war on the United States. And I think we can all agree, when we are at war, the appropriate response is not to do what your enemy wants.

The appropriate response is to support our military and its commanders. The appropriate response is to praise the airmen at Al Khobar Towers for the dedication and alertness which prevented greater casualties in the attack. The appropriate response is to pile on all of the intelligence and war-fighting resources we can marshal so as to put the perpetrators out of business and to punish their state sponsor, if we find one. The appropriate response is to be sure our troops enjoy the maximum protection consistent with the mission. The appropriate response is to continue with our vital mission in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. President, we should be making it clear, right now, the United States is angry. But we are not angry because a barrier was too close to a building. We should be making it very clear we are angry because someone attacked us. That someone should understand they are the focus of our anger, not our military commanders. We should be confirming our commitment the United States will not leave Saudi Arabia. We should make sure our enemy understands they will be punished and their organization will be destroyed. And this will happen to them no matter how far we have to go or how long it takes.

We Americans proved during Desert Storm that we will support a 72-hour

war. We now need to prove we will support a war that lasts 72 weeks—or however long it takes to defeat this enemy.

The nervousness over vulnerabilities, the second-guessing of the chain of command, the search for an exit strategy should be going on in the terrorists' lair—not in the United States. Let's focus the anger where it belongs.

FLAWED ELECTIONS IN NIGER

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, early this week, the people of the Republic of Niger were denied their right to choose their own leadership and control their destiny. I want to express my deep disappointment in the Nigerian elections and in the military regime that chose to retain power through fraud and intimidation rather than honor its word to hold free and fair elections.

In January, immediately after Gen. Ibrahim Barre Mainassara deposed Niger's democratically elected president in a military coup, he pledged to return the country to democracy as soon as possible. At that time, the United States rejected the use of military solutions for political problems by suspending bilateral development and military assistance, as well as support for Niger in multilateral financial institutions. We urged Barre to keep his word and encouraged the military government to reestablish democracy quickly and transparently.

Balloting started on Sunday, despite the fact that the Independent Electoral Commission had twice requested a postponement in order to ensure that accurate voter lists and voter cares were in place. General Barre rejected these requests and, instead, extended the voting through Monday. On this second day of balloting, the general deployed security forces to the homes of his opponents, shut down private radio stations—including the Voice of America affiliate—and dissolved the Independent Electoral Commission.

Barre appointed a new commission which declared him the winner only hours later. Quickly after that declaration all demonstrations and public assemblies were banned. Political leaders are under house arrest, and political activists are being detained.

Mr. President, I join with the administration and other members of the international community in condemning these recent events. The age of accepting military coups and authoritarian regimes in Africa is over. France, with its unique influence in Niger, can have an especially powerful voice in articulating this message. For this reason, it is particularly disturbing that the bilateral French delegation on the ground claimed that, by Nigerian standards, this weekend's election was a sound one.

In this era of change and growth throughout much of the African Continent, Niger now stands out as a country moving against the tide of openness and progress. Development and eco-

nomical growth cannot be achieved in a climate of instability, and human potential cannot be realized in an atmosphere of fear. If the people of Niger are to find their much-deserved place among the emerging markets and developing nations of Africa, Niger must return to democracy.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET SUPPORTS STUDENT AID

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today I would like to express my continued support for Federal student financial aid programs. I relied on student loans to fund my college education at the University of South Dakota, so I understand the importance of these loans for students and families. Low income levels should not deny young people the opportunity to achieve their dream of a college education. Programs such as Stafford loans, Pell Grants, and work study programs enable young people to fulfill that dream and pursue their ultimate dreams of personal and professional success.

One of the great challenges for American families is the rising cost of a college education. For the past two decades, tuition costs have risen twice as fast as inflation. Financial aid has not kept pace with these soaring price increases. The result? More and more students and their families are struggling to pay for college today. In my home State of South Dakota, 83 percent of students attending public colleges receive some type of Federal financial aid. As the number of students receiving loans continues to grow, the overall student aid debt accumulates along with it. Even more of a concern, the rising cost of tuition increases the size of the debt students pay off after college. South Dakota students now graduate with an average debt of more than \$10,000. This means that college graduates are forced to divert a higher share of their earnings in order to pay off their student debts.

Students struggle to find ways to pay off these huge debts. Increasingly, they work while attending school. This trend tends to deflate the student's educational experience.

I am pleased the Republican budget that passed Congress earlier this year would respond to these trends. The budget includes responsible, cost-efficient reforms to student financial aid programs. These programs can be improved without harming the actual aid levels that students depend on. Reform can be achieved by eliminating small, specialized scholarship programs and Federal bureaucracy.

Unfortunately, liberal interests have tried to use the issue of student financial aid to their benefit. They have used false propaganda to scare young people and their parents. I urge Americans to look at the facts, not the falsehoods. The Republican plan for student aid would increase the amount of aid available to students, while downsizing inefficient Federal bureaucracy.