

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 24,
2003

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 24. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time of the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of S. 1, the prescription drugs benefit bill.

I further ask consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party lunches.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, a lot of progress has been made on this Medicare bill in the past week. The two managers have done an excellent job of administering this piece of legislation. But the key part of this whole procedure is going to be the next few days. I hope the two managers who get along so well understand the difficulty on both sides. They are going to have to use maturity and skills and experience in working us through these next few days. I hope everyone understands this legislation, even though we have had some speeches talking about how good it is—since it is as good as everyone contemplated it was, I hope that no one would try to make any drastic changes to the underlying legislation. It would take away a lot of the good work and good will that has been built up.

I know the senior Senator from Iowa and the senior Senator from Montana both understand that.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for the benefit of the distinguished Democratic whip, I just came from a meeting with Senator BAUCUS discussing some of the issues the Senator has suggested. When I am done here serving as acting leader, I will return to that same meeting and we will try to get some of these things worked out tonight.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, the prescription drug benefit bill. We currently have approximately 33 amendments pending to the bill and several Senators have expressed interest in offering additional amendments during tomorrow's session. Under the order there will be two stacked votes beginning at 11 a.m. in relation to two of these amendments. In addition, there will be a vote in relation to the Dodd amendment following the policy luncheon recess. Therefore, I inform my colleagues that rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day tomorrow.

For the remainder of the week, the Senate continues consideration of the prescription drug benefits bill. The

leader has stated on several occasions that the Senate will complete action on this historic legislation prior to adjourning for the July 4th recess. Therefore, Members should expect rollcall votes throughout the days and into the evenings throughout this entire week. Senators are asked to make the necessary scheduling arrangements.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator LAUTENBERG for up to 10 minutes.

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

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the Republican manager in the Chamber and my colleague, the Democratic whip, for allowing me time to speak as in morning business.

What I want to do is call attention to some incidents that have occurred recently and that were highlighted, in my view, in the New York Times, on the front page, today. I will read from parts of these articles. I want to explain the reason I am so exercised by what I see.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of these two articles be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, June 23, 2003]

AFTER MISSILE RAID ON CONVOY, U.S. HUNTS
FOR HUSSEIN'S DNA

(By Douglas Jehl with Eric Schmitt)

Washington, June 22.—An American Predator drone aircraft firing Hellfire missiles destroyed a convoy last week that was believed to be carrying fugitive Iraqi leaders, and experts are trying to determine whether those killed might have included Saddam Hussein or his sons, United States government officials said today.

The officials said they had obtained intelligence indicating that senior Iraqi leaders were traveling in the convoy. They suggested that the intelligence might have come from an intercepted telephone conversation or an informant. The attack took place Wednesday near the Syrian border in western Iraq.

There was no evidence so far, the officials said, to support the idea that Mr. Hussein or his sons might have been killed in the raid, and some officials were doubtful that they were. But they said intelligence teams, including DNA experts, were at the site to review the wreckage and assess the evidence.

Officials declined to say how many people, or vehicles, were in the convoy, but they said it had been completely destroyed. If DNA evidence was the only method of determining who had been killed, it could take days to get the results.

A British newspaper, The Observer, disclosed the attack in today's issue and said it had been an attempt to kill Mr. Hussein. The Pentagon and the United States Central Command declined today to discuss that report, and American officials who agreed to

discuss it on the condition of anonymity said the United States had never been certain that Mr. Hussein or his sons were in the convoy.

Still, administration officials said the strike underscored a growing belief among American intelligence officials that Mr. Hussein and his sons were not killed during the war and have remained in Iraq. The attack on the convoy showed the pressure of a stepped-up manhunt after information provided by a Hussein confidant who was detained last week.

The aide, Abid Hamid Mahmoud al-Tikriti, 46, who had served as the Iraqi leader's secretary and bodyguard, told his American interrogators that Mr. Hussein and his sons, Uday and Qusay, survived the war, and that he himself traveled to Syria after the conflict with Mr. Hussein's sons before being expelled, according to Defense Department officials who have said they have not been able to corroborate those claims.

A senior administration official said tonight that President Bush had been aware of the strike before it occurred but did not have to approve it. The official said a team was moving in to try to recover the DNA of those in the convoy, but it was unclear if they had yet arrived at the scene.

Some American officials described the attack as having been in the same category as the March 19 and April 7 attacks on compounds where Mr. Hussein and his sons were believed to be hiding. American intelligence analysts now believe that Mr. Hussein and his sons probably survived both those attacks.

A senior administration official described the intelligence that led to the Wednesday attack as a good lead. But another administration official said, "I have no information that leads us to believe we got Saddam." A military officer said intelligence reports that Mr. Hussein or his sons might have been in the convoy might have been based more on hope than evidence.

"There might be people crossing their fingers, but it's just like a year ago, when they were crossing their fingers" in the hopes of capturing Osama bin Laden, one military official said, Mr. bin Laden, Al Qaeda's leader, is still believed to be alive after 21 months in which he has been the target of an intense manhunt.

In a television interview today, King Abdullah of Jordan said he had heard reports several days ago that Mr. Hussein and his sons were in Iraq's western desert region. But he said he had heard many reports of their whereabouts in recent weeks and months and did not know if this one was accurate.

"It's like Elvis," King Abdullah said on the ABC News program "this Week." "There's a lot of sightings of him all over the place."

Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, including the chairman, Senator Pat Roberts, Republican of Kansas, said in television appearances today that they had not been informed of any new missile strike aimed at the Iraqi leader. Still, Senator Roberts, speaking on "Fox News Sunday," said, "I will not be surprised at any military action that would lead to the possibility that we have now finally killed Saddam Hussein."

Senator John D. Rockefeller IV of West Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said on the same program that any confirmation of the death of Mr. Hussein would serve to undercut the morale of fighters who are staging hit-and-run attacks on American soldiers and at the same time instill confidence among the broader Iraqi public.

The search for Mr. Hussein has been led by Task Force 20, a secret military organization that is working closely with American intelligence agencies and whose members include