

electricity is up, and they have said: No. So that is Thursday night, Friday, Friday night, Saturday, Saturday night, Sunday, Sunday night, and now Monday. I know the local disaster relief and utility repair persons are working very hard, and we respect all of their work a great deal.

Again, it is time for everybody to pull together as we address the powerful effects and potential devastation from this hurricane. So our thoughts and prayers are with everybody. Everybody should gather together and we will pull through this as well as we might.

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#### IRAQ

Mr. FRIST. The second subject I want to comment on is the continual news that we have with regard to what is going on in Baghdad. Today we received news that a suicide bomber detonated himself at the entrance of the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad. The bomber injured 19 people, including 2 Iraqi United Nations workers.

This terrorist action follows an assassination attempt over the weekend on Aquila al-Hashimi, one of the three women who is serving on the Iraqi governing council. I understand through reports that Ms. Al-Hashimi is recovering from the attempt on her life. Most of my colleagues know she is a leading candidate to become Iraq's future United Nations ambassador.

These outrageous attacks demonstrate the level of cowardice and depravity that indeed is almost beyond words, that the enemy would stalk and attack a woman who is serving her people and murder Iraqi civilians attempting to build a representative democracy or, as we just saw, one guardsman inspecting a car. That they would do these things shows us once again the ugly face of our enemy.

Some in this body have claimed there is no connection between Saddam and al-Qaida. This is false. As the President said last week, there is no question Saddam Hussein had al-Qaida ties. We know Saddam permitted the operation of a terrorist training camp on Iraqi soil. We know the Iraqi intelligence chief, Faruk Hijazi, met with bin Laden and his associates. And we know Abdul Rahman Yasin, a suspect in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was harbored in Iraq. We are now learning from documents found in Tikrit that he may have even received payments and a home from the Iraqi Government.

Thus, there is no doubt—there is no doubt—that Saddam was in league with terrorists. Saddam himself was the embodiment of terror.

There can also be no doubt that Saddam is finished; that Iraq, the American people, and the civilized world are better off without him and without his terror-sponsoring regime.

It is my expectation the Senate will turn to consideration of the President's emergency request for Iraq and Af-

ghanistan on the floor next week. It is my hope that we will have good debate, both in committees over the course of this week and, indeed, on the Senate floor, and complete action on this legislation before the Senate recesses on October 3.

I know Senators on both sides of the aisle have a lot of questions—many questions. The post-war situation in Iraq has required sacrifice. We see it every day—from the families who are separated by service, the families who are our constituents and friends to whom we talk on a daily basis and, most of all, those who have lost loved ones in the ongoing fighting.

The President has laid out a plan and a vision to move us forward. By actively participating in this debate we can fulfill that vision and support our service men and women who have already sacrificed so much. We will also send a message to friend and foe around the world that America will stand with the Iraqi people; that America will defeat the enemies of peace and democracy. It is that message that I believe, through our committee hearings this week, through our discussions and through the debate on the Senate floor, will ring most loudly—that America will stand with the Iraqi people and America will defeat the enemies of peace and democracy.

In preparation for next week's debate, Senate committees—this week, in fact, beginning right now at 2—will begin holding a whole series of hearings to examine and discuss the President's request. The Senate Appropriations Committee will be holding two hearings, the Foreign Relations Committee will be holding three hearings, and the Armed Services Committee will be holding one hearing. Each will examine closely the President's proposal, and I am confident that with the appropriate discussion and with that scrutiny it will win overwhelming support in the Senate.

The world now has before it a window to help the Iraqi people reclaim their future as a free people. The foundation of a democratic and stable Iraq will only be found in economic opportunity and liberty. It is this foundation that best defines—and this will play out as we talk over the course of this week—this is a foundation of economic opportunity coupled with security that President Bush's proposal best provides.

With our \$20 billion investment, we will not reconstruct the economy of Iraq, as a lot of people say or which they envision. That is not what the \$20 billion will be doing. That can only be done by the Iraqi people themselves. The Iraqi economy can only be reconstructed by the Iraqi people. It can only be done by their own resourcefulness, by their own commitment, by their own entrepreneurship, and by their own imagination. Yes, Iraqis now have the freedom to become entrepreneurs, to be creative, and to have that creativity realized and translated

through democratic principles into economic opportunity. What we must do is create a stable environment in which that newfound freedom will be allowed to flourish.

From our investment will flow other investments from other nations willing to help the Iraqi people and from the developing resources of the Iraqi people themselves. Our investment, at least as I see it, is not an obligation: it is a choice. It is a choice that the United States supports the Iraqi people. It is a choice that we believe democracy can and will flourish among them. And it is a choice that the American people are made more secure by Iraq having a free and democratic state.

The swift victory of our troops this spring makes us forget in some ways the threat Saddam once posed. We lived with the threat and instability emanating from Iraq for over two decades. Twice Saddam Hussein was on the verge of developing nuclear weapons—once stopped by the courageous airstrike by Israel and once stopped by the United States coalition in the 1991 gulf war. Twice Saddam Hussein invaded his neighbors to expand his reign of terror—once into Iran and once into Kuwait. Twice we sent the United States military to confront Saddam Hussein—once expelling him from Kuwait and once expelling him from Baghdad. Saddam Hussein played host to international terrorists to the very last day of his reign.

Some will argue that we cannot afford to finish the job in Iraq. We can't afford not to. We have already invested billions of dollars, through two wars and through two decades, in trying to end this persistent threat to the stability of the Middle East and to the safety of the United States and its allies.

We have it now within our power to ensure once and for all that there will be no third attempt to build yet another nuclear weapon. We have it within our power to ensure that there is not a third gulf war for yet another generation of Americans to fight. We have it within our power to help the Iraqi people build Iraq to become an exporter of stability in the region instead of the source of deadly weapons of war and oppression.

By putting Iraq on the path to economic opportunity and democracy, we will shift the entire strategic direction of the Middle East. By finishing the job we started, we will ensure a safer future for our own people.

I look forward to this debate in Senate, and I am confident that the outcome will be overwhelming support for the President of the United States.

I yield the floor.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.