

created a vacuum and that vacuum was eventually filled by the Taliban. And then, of course, the Taliban provided protection for al-Qaida, the beginning of that network. We see the result, the painful, painful result, not only with the beginning of the 1993 attempted destruction of the World Trade Center but the completion of that plan to destroy it in 2001 and then the many other bombings that have occurred around the world.

So we better be successful. We have young men and women—we have old men and women over there, too—doing a fantastic job for us. Not just service men and women wearing the uniform of this country; these are men and women who are not wearing the uniform of this country but are in equally as important positions such as the CIA, the State Department, AID, all of the American companies that are over there in the reconstruction effort—the nongovernment groups that are over there trying to help out the Iraqi people.

As we approach this 1-year anniversary of the fall of Saddam Hussein, it is appropriate to consider what lies ahead for the Iraqi people and what lies ahead for the American people who made some progress now in the reconstruction of Iraq. There is now an Iraqi transitional administrative law which outlines the basic principles upon which a free and Democratic Iraq will be governed. But trying to get democracy across to a community, to a society that has lived under repression for so long—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired in morning business.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent I have an additional 7 minutes.

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

Mr. NELSON of Florida. The responsiveness we have had thus far, I must say, is nothing short of remarkable. But there are still many concerns that I have about the reconstruction of that country.

The first is that we have an administrative law that hands control over to the Iraqis, but it hasn't been spelled out. It seems as though the decisions and the actions in Iraq are being driven by an artificial deadline—June 30.

Why June 30? Are we ready to hand over to these institutions that have no experience in democracy in another 3 months? I don't think so. An expeditious transfer of power to Iraqis certainly may be desirable, but we shouldn't put the cart before the horse and give sovereignty to a governing body that may be less than fully able to handle the political, military, economic, religious, and ethnic strife that may arise from such a premature handover. That would put American lives further at risk and would jeopardize the entirety of our reconstruction efforts today.

I am also concerned about the nature of the United States presence in Iraq

after the turnover. Will a government, a new Iraqi government within this short period of time 3 months from now, have sufficient legitimacy among the Shiite, Sunni, and Kurds—all of them—to maintain the presence of our troops who are so desperately needed to maintain the security and stability of that country?

The disagreements over the presence of the troops, not even to think of the disagreements over the number of our troops and other political issues involving a successor government which could give rise to civil, religious and/or ethnic strife—guess who would be right in the middle. It would be our U.S. troops.

The transitional administrative law does not include an agreement for the stationing of U.S. forces. That gives rise to the prospect of U.S. forces fighting well-armed militia groups in addition to the security threats they face every day. What are they facing every day? Improvised devices that are designed to lure our troops to them and then kill or maim our U.S. service men and women.

In addition, the Coalition Provisional Authority now has been working hard to stand up an indigenous Iraq security and defense force.

I went to one of those police training academies outside of Amman, Jordan. It was impressive. But within an 8- or 16-week course, they were only going to be able to train about 1,500 policemen.

I am concerned about whether this force is going to be adequately staffed, resourced, and ready for the tremendous task of law and order in Iraq after the turnover on June 30.

Moreover, if these indigenous security efforts fall short and significant disagreements lead to an unraveling of a unified and sovereign Iraq, guess who is going to be on the ground as Iraq dissolves into many religious and ethnic community conflicts. You got it. The United States service men and women are going to be in the middle of it.

The political dissolution of Iraq is something the United States must take every precaution to avoid. That is another reason not to let the artificial deadlines drive the Iraqi reconstruction.

I am concerned also about the role of religion in the future of Iraq. The transitional administrative law stipulates Islam will be considered a source of legislation. I don't have any problem with Islam. That is their faith. But it seems this provision has satisfied neither those who wish for a secular government nor those who wish for an Islamic state.

The United States must more clearly and urgently demand freedom for all religions and protect against the persecution of any particular religion. We cannot allow religious extremism to permeate Iraqi society in spirit and practice, deed, or law.

I am concerned about the economy of Iraq.

Think about it. We appropriated \$18 billion for the reconstruction effort that is starting to enter Iraqi society. For the next 6 to 8 months, \$18 billion will be infused to building roads and bridges and restoring wetlands, water systems, and electrical systems. This is going to be a country flush with U.S. dollars.

My worry is the Iraqi economy is going to become heavily dependent on U.S. dollars. This puts an enormous burden on the U.S. taxpayer. What happens after this appropriation dries up?

I urge the administration not only to call on the international community, as we did during the Afghan war and following the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan, but that we call on other countries and make them follow through on their pledges for financial assistance.

Finally, I am concerned about the distinctly American nature of reconstruction efforts. The President promised Congress he would work closely to build international support for our efforts to disarm Saddam Hussein. While we are grateful for the few nations providing personnel, Operation Iraqi Freedom is predominantly an American program. Some may argue that it may not matter whether other nations participate or how other nations view our efforts in Iraq and the global war on terrorism. But this Senator, and I think a lot of Senators, would beg to differ. This is an important part. This is a very important part of keeping more allies involved. It would so much improve our chances of obtaining critical assistance from other Arab countries, especially the Arab countries in that region, as well as other nations of the world that now are reluctant to participate.

I wanted to get these thoughts off my chest about this looming deadline of June 30. I wanted to, as we say in some corners, look over the horizon at what may be coming and how America needs to prepare for what may be coming in that strife-torn country of Iraq.

I yield the floor.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACK DANIEL'S

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, 2004 marks the 100th anniversary of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair—the fair that has come to be recognized as ushering in what today is known as “The American Century.” At that fair an unknown gentleman from Lynchburg, TN, rose to world acclaim. That man was Jack Daniel. At the 1904 World's Fair his Old Number 7 Brand Tennessee Whiskey won the Gold Medal as “the world's best whiskey”.

Today, Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey can be found in over 135 countries. In fact, no other Tennessee product is exported to more countries. Further, this year it will become the world's No. 1 selling whiskey, displacing products made by our friends in Scotland for the first time in history.

The Tennessee General Assembly recently passed a resolution commemorating Jack Daniel's 1904 Gold Medal. Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER and I would like to share the resolution with our colleagues by including it in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

Whereas, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should honor those Tennessee companies bringing Tennessee's heritage to people around the world; and

Whereas, Jack Daniel's is one such Tennessee company which has proudly and responsibly brought Tennessee's heritage to millions of adult consumers; and

Whereas, since 1863, in the spirit of President George Washington, the father of the American Distilling Industry, the Jack Daniel Distillery has produced the world's most popular Tennessee Whiskey; and

Whereas, 2004 is the 100th Anniversary of Jack Daniel's Old Number 7 Brand Tennessee Whiskey's receipt of the Gold Medal at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair; and

Whereas, Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey is enjoyed by adult consumers in over 135 countries—more countries than any other Tennessee export; and

Whereas, Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey is the United States' number one exported distilled spirit; and

Whereas, to commemorate its popularity and its Tennessee heritage, Jack Daniel's will be honored in Washington, D.C. on April 1, 2004; and

Whereas, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the staff of the Jack Daniel Distillery upon their great success; Now, therefore, be it further

Resolved by House of Representatives of the 103rd General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate concurring, that we congratulate the staff of the Jack Daniel Distillery upon the celebration of its 100th Anniversary of winning the 1904 Saint Louis World's Fair Gold Medal, and saluting their excellent service to this great state, extend to them our wishes for every future success.

Mr. FRIST. Senator ALEXANDER and I join in congratulating the people of Jack Daniel Distillery on this 100th anniversary and look forward to their continued success at bringing a part of Tennessee's heritage to consumers around the world.

On April 1, 2004, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 1904 World's Fair Gold Medal, the Tennessee State Society and the Jack Daniel Distillery will hold a celebration of Jack Daniel's Tennessee heritage here in Washington. It will be a very special occasion, so we encourage our colleagues to join us at the celebration.

HAITI

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the Haitian people find themselves embroiled in yet another political crisis. Following Jean Bertrand Aristide's departure on February 29, 2004, the Haitian people once again are forced to pick up the pieces of their broken political system. Again, they must renew

their search for democracy, a search that has lasted for two hundred years with little progress. Thirty coups after Haiti established its independence in 1804, Haitians continue to live in severe poverty, battling HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, poor sanitation, and a political culture of thuggery and violence.

The United States has played an important role in Haiti's history. From U.S. military intervention in 1915 and the 19-year occupation that followed to the restoration of President Aristide in 1994 by U.S. forces, politics in Haiti have been deeply influenced by its larger and more powerful neighbor. Now, the United States has an obligation to assist in rebuilding Haiti in collaboration with our international partners. However, our assistance must be shaped and implemented with an eye to our previous mistakes. For too long, our approach has been ad-hoc and short-term, and the Haitian people have suffered. It is no wonder that some are suspicious of democracy and the role of the United States today.

This is not to say that the United States must take most of the blame for the political turmoil in Haiti. Haiti's leaders, and especially President Aristide, must also acknowledge their responsibility in Haiti's current political crisis. However, our flawed nation-building attempt in the 1990s, allegations of international support for Haiti's rebels, and the departure of President Aristide suggest a need for introspection by U.S. policymakers, humanitarian and development organizations and others.

Policymakers knew that Haiti's democracy was in trouble for years. Why did the administration fail to take meaningful action until Haiti was on the verge of collapse? As the rebels gained control of Haitian territory from early to mid-February, the U.S. administration largely channeled its diplomatic efforts through the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. On February 21st, the United States backed a CARICOM proposal, which called for a power-sharing compromise between Aristide and the opposition. However, as soon as Haiti's political opposition rejected the proposal, rather than defending Haiti's democratic process and institutions, the administration quickly backed down. With rebel forces moving toward the capital of Port-au-Prince on February 28, 2004, the administration increased pressure on Aristide to resign, stating that "His failure to adhere to democratic principles has contributed to the deep polarization and violent unrest that we are witnessing in Haiti today." Aristide resigned the next day and flew into exile on a U.S. aircraft.

President Aristide was no paragon of democratic virtue. He encouraged his supporters in their violent campaign against the opposition, and his regime was a corrupt one. But a world in which legitimately elected officials, found wanting, can be run out of office

by gangs of armed thugs is a world in which the thugs, in fact, are in charge. The people of Haiti, like people all over the world, deserve better. U.S. complicity in President Aristide's ouster sent the wrong message to violent rebel leaders, who have committed their own atrocities in Haiti's past. A transition guided by the rule of law, rather than the threat of violence, would surely have been preferable.

In the past weeks, a number of my constituents have raised important questions. What ties exist between rebel leaders and the government of the United States? Did the U.S. government impede efforts by the international community, particularly the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, to prevent President Aristide's resignation? I believe that the American and Haitian people deserve the answers, and a full accounting of the events surrounding Aristide's departure.

Equally important, we must help Haiti move forward and break out of this pattern of instability and underdevelopment. We should continue to assist in establishing security and disarming all parties to the conflict, and I commend the American troops who answered the call to service and are now on the ground in Haiti. However, I believe that the administration's decision to commit troops will require a full vetting by Congress. As long as American troops are in harm's way in Haiti, the Congress has a direct role and responsibility to either ratify or repudiate the use of U.S. military troops.

We must also ensure the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to communities in need. Haitian Supreme Court Chief Justice Boniface Alexandre should have the full support of the United States in working to make Haiti's constitution the guide for the transition and succession process from this point on. And in the longer term, the United States should work with the rest of the international community to help bolster the institutions that are essential to consolidating Haiti's democracy and stability, and assist the Haitian people in holding people accountable for their flagrant violations of human rights.

The United States cannot ignore Haiti. Not only do we have a moral obligation to help the Haitian people, who are starving in our own backyard, but there are other national security interests at stake for the United States. A country in crisis so close to our borders creates a political vacuum in the region, where international crime and terrorism can flourish. As we saw in Afghanistan, a country in chaos allows for the emergence of dangerous forces, that directly threaten our security. In addition, the refugee flow created by instability and oppression will wash up on our shores, causing hardship for the Haitian people and overwhelming U.S. communities.