

case for a unilateral preemptive war. The approach outlined above seems to offer the best prospect for exposing the administration's dubious motives and methods.

That was the game plan that some of my colleagues took into this investigation of pre-Iraq war intelligence. That is deeply disappointing—disgusting, I would say—to say this is the game plan being played out on the floor to politicize intelligence.

Their conclusions about “misleading,” about “pressure,” unfortunately, are not supported by the facts. There was exhaustive examination and interviews. Chairman ROBERTS invited in anybody who claimed to know about improper pressure on the analysts and nobody could come forward with anything. Nobody could come forward with any. No wrongdoing by Doug Feith, but they are still going at it.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are not troubled by an absence of fact. They have a political jihad. They have their crusade. They have sold, to too many people, the base canard that President Bush and Vice President CHENEY were not telling the truth when, in fact, the whole basis of that charge was a fraud and a hoax.

As my colleague from Georgia said, we need to improve the intelligence operations. We have a lot of work to do. But we also have some work to do in the Congress, and that is to get over attempting to use the Intelligence Committee and the intelligence community as a political weapon to attack our opponents.

I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 20, 2004]

MR. WILSON'S DEFENSE

After U.S. and British intelligence reports exposed his falsehoods in the last 10 days, Joe Wilson is finally defending himself. We're therefore glad to return to this story one more time, because there are some larger lessons here about the law, and for the Beltway media and Bush White House.

Mr. Wilson's defense, in essence, is that the “Republican-written” Senate Intelligence Committee report is a partisan hatchet job. We could forgive people for being taken in by this, considering the way the Committee's ranking Democrat, Jay Rockefeller, has been spinning it over the past week. But the fact is that the three most damning conclusions are contained not in Chairman Pat Roberts's “Additional Views,” but in the main body of the report approved by Mr. Rockefeller and seven other Democrats.

Number one: The winner of last year's Award for Truth Telling from the Nation magazine foundation didn't tell the truth when he wrote that his wife, CIA officer Valerie Plame, “had nothing to do with” his selection for the Niger mission. Mr. Wilson is now pretending there is some kind of important distinction between whether she “recommended” or “proposed” him for the trip.

Mr. Wilson had been denying any involvement at all on Ms. Plame's part, in order to suggest that her identity was disclosed by a still-unknown Administration official out of pure malice. If instead an Administration official cited nepotism truthfully in order to explain the oddity of Mr. Wilson's selection for the Niger mission, then there was no un-

derlying crime. Motive is crucial under the controlling statute.

The 1982 Intelligence Identities Protection Act was written in the wake of the Philip Agee scandal to protect the CIA from deliberate subversion, not to protect the identities of agents and their spouses who choose to enter into a national political debate. In short, the entire leak probe now looks like a familiar Beltway case of criminalizing political differences. Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald should fold up his tent.

Number two: Joe Wilson didn't tell the truth about how he supposedly came to realize that it was “highly doubtful” there was anything to the story he'd been sent to Niger to investigate. He told everyone that he'd recognized as obvious forgeries the documents purporting to show an Iraq-Niger uranium deal. But the forged documents to which he referred didn't reach U.S. intelligence until eight months after his trip. Mr. Wilson has said that he “misspoke”—multiple times, apparently—on this issue.

Number three: Joe Wilson was also not telling the truth when he said that his final report to the CIA had “debunked” the Niger story. The Senate Intelligence report—again, the *bipartisan* portion of it—says Mr. Wilson's debrief was interpreted as providing “some confirmation of foreign government service reporting” that Iraq had sought uranium in Niger. That's because Niger's former Prime Minister had told Mr. Wilson he interpreted a 1999 visit from an Iraqi trade delegation as showing an interest in uranium.

This is a remarkable record of falsehood. We'll let our readers judge if they think Mr. Wilson was deliberately wrong, and therefore can be said to have “lied.” We certainly know what critics would say if President Bush had been caught saying such things. But in any event, we'd think that the news outlets that broadcast Mr. Wilson's story over the past year would want to retrace their own missteps.

Mr. Wilson made three separate appearances on NBC's “Meet the Press,” according to the Weekly Standard. New York Times columnist Nick Kristof first brought the still anonymous Niger envoy to public attention in May 2003, so he too must feel burned by his source. Alone among major sellers of the Wilson story, the Washington Post has done an admirable job so far of correcting the record.

Also remarkable is that the views of former CIA employee Larry Johnson continue to be cited anywhere on this and related issues. Mr. Johnson was certain last October that the disclosure of Ms. Plame's identity was a purely “political attack,” now disproven. He is also a friend of Ms. Plame and the author of a summer 2001 op-ed titled “The Declining Terrorist Threat.” You'd think reporters would at least quote him with a political warning label.

The final canard advanced by Mr. Wilson's defenders is that our own recent editorials and other criticism was somehow “orchestrated.” Well, by whom? Certainly not by the same White House that has been all too silent about this entire episode, in large part because it prematurely apologized last year for the “16 words” in a State of the Union address that have now been declared “well-founded” by Lord Butler's inquiry in Britain. If Mr. Bush ends up losing the election over Iraq, it won't be because he oversold the case for war but because he's sometimes appeared to have lost confidence in the cause.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. How much time do we have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 4½ minutes remaining.

SENATE STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, of course we all have spent a good deal of time concerned about the direction we are taking here, the number of things we are accomplishing, the fact that many of the things we would like to do have not been accomplished. I think that is a legitimate concern. We ought to try to deal with some of those issues.

On the other hand, there have been a number of things done, of course. I think we have had the most obstruction in the movement here that we have seen in many years. Many important issues have been stopped, have been obstructed, frankly, because our friends on the other side of the aisle did not want to go forward with these issues, or wanted to hold them up where they could add all kinds of unrelated amendments to them.

The Class Action Fairness Act, of course, was blocked. The fairness in asbestos injury resolution was blocked. The Patients First Act, the energy policy—probably one of the most important issues we could have dealt with this entire year is still there. Charity aid, recovery, and empowerment legislation, which gave strength to do things in the private sector, we were unable to do that; Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act; workforce investment; five judges were held up simply for the purpose of holding them up.

It is too bad. It is something we need to change. We ought to be concerned here with issues, not politics, not Kerry, not Bush, but talk about what the issues are here and the things we ought to be doing. Politics, of course, is part of our lives, but so is accomplishing something in the legislature.

We have done some things. The Omnibus appropriations bill for this fiscal year was passed this year. It was delayed but nevertheless passed. The Pension Stability Act had to do with changing the requirements for putting money into pensions. That made that better. The accountability, flexibility and efficiency—the transportation bill—again, one of the most important bills we could possibly pass, we passed it in the Senate but, unfortunately, it is still hung up in conference. The Internet bill which allows for the moratorium of taxation on the Internet, a good thing, was passed by the Senate.

The Jumpstart Our Business Strength Act, of course, is one that is pending and ready to go. I hope, to the conference committee. This is the one that the WTO had the penalties on exports from the United States and we had a 3-percent reduction for those that exported goods and that gave us a penalty. Now we are changing that. There is also a great deal in that bill with regard to encouraging the economy to grow.

So we have done a number of things. We have done some things to reduce

the redtape and the consumer initiative, taxpayer protection, and IRS accountability that strengthens the protection the taxpayers have in terms of what information is made public on their taxes.

Strengthening and improving health care; we did the project bioshield. These things have passed the Senate but have not been completed yet largely because we have not been able to go to conference on many of them.

Here again we find obstacles in our way this year that we have never seen before. I guess it means we need to take a little look at our system.

Keeping Americans safe at home—of course, we passed the unborn victims of violence bill that amends the Federal law regarding women who are assaulted, and an unborn child is killed, to allow the assailant to be charged.

Flood insurance reform is very important. It amends the Flood Act to encourage damage mitigation. Homeland security has been something, of course, we have passed.

Regarding crime, we have done a lot of things, even though we could do a great deal more, I am sure.

Educational initiatives—the NASA Workforce Flexibility Act offers scholarships, incentives, for highly qualified students to move forward.

IDEA reauthorization, the Individuals with Disabilities Act, is one that is very important to be reauthorized and moved through. It was passed by the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to continue for 5 more minutes.

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

Mr. THOMAS. The point is, we have a problem with the process here. Obstruction is available. I don't think that is what is intended.

At the same time, we have accomplished a good many things that certainly are important and that we need to recognize.

I want to mention something that I believe is important, and that is taking a little look and having a way to have some measurement of the kinds of things that are brought up that are legitimately congressional—Federal kinds of issues.

I understand everyone has issues they would like to bring up. Frankly, some of them are inappropriate to be here on the Federal level. We continue to have more spending; we have more government; we have more involvement in people's lives. One of the reasons is we have not set up some criteria to say this is a good idea, but is it the thing that ought to be done in the Federal Government as opposed to State government or city government or county government?

TOM FEENEY, from Florida, one of the House Members, put out an interesting idea. He has a little card like a credit card. It measures these things against issues.

No. 1 is less government: Does the bill tend to reduce government regulations, the size of government, eliminate entitlements or unnecessary programs? That is one of the tests he has against the issue.

No. 2 is lower taxes: Does the bill promote individual responsibility in spending or reducing taxes? It is a good idea to take a look at that.

No. 3 is personal responsibility: Does the bill encourage responsible behavior among individuals and families, and encourage them to take care of their own issues to an extent? Remember, we don't want the government in our lives, yet things have to be done. It is a choice: do we do them ourselves?

No. 4 is individual freedom: Does the bill offer opportunities for individuals to do those kinds of things?

No. 5 is stronger families: Is it something that contributes to the family function, the family structure in our country, which is obviously one of the most important things we have?

Finally, No. 6, does it add to domestic tranquility and national defense?

I think those are interesting concepts, interesting measurements that one might take—in their own mind, of course. Each person would have a different view of how to deal with it but to see if what is before us meets some of these measurements and does these things.

First, I think we are going to have to do something about the kind of obstructionism we have seen that moves to keep us from doing what we need to do. Second, we need to recognize we have done a number of things and passed them in the Senate. Unfortunately, they are not fully done. Maybe a little unrelated, but important to me, we ought to have some kind of standard we measure in our minds as to whether this is a legitimate thing, necessary thing, appropriate thing to be done at the Federal level or indeed should be done other places.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

UNITED STATES-MOROCCO FREE-TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2677, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2677) to implement the United States-Morocco Free-Trade Agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, time until 11:30 p.m. is equally divided for debate on or between the chairman and ranking member.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, what is the pending matter?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the Morocco-United States free-trade agreement, FTA, and the impact this bilateral free trade agreement will have on agricultural producers in my State of South Dakota. While I retain concerns on a number of agreements negotiated under Trade Promotion Authority, TPA, as part of fast track trade negotiations navigated by the current administration, I see a potential positive impact on the South Dakota economy from a number of provisions in this agreement. I am pleased that the needs of many sectors in our agricultural community were accounted for while hammering out the terms included in this FTA.

I am disappointed at the recent passage of the Australian free-trade agreement, AFTA, which seriously weakens our ability to foster growth in the agricultural sector. It is concerning that the adoption of the AFTA will hinder the retention of our agriculture producers, exacerbate supply, and consequently undermine our Federal price support programs. When dealing with sensitively priced commodities and a delicate supply and demand balance, I believe we must prudently evaluate the economic ramifications from any proposed trade agreement. I am concerned for the rural communities in my home state of South Dakota, and I will continue to evaluate trade agreements on a case by case basis to ascertain the potential benefits and negative impacts.

Despite these concerns, I am pleased to see that the Moroccan free-trade agreement holds promise and provides a number of potentially rewarding terms for United States producers and ranchers. The agreement encompasses a wide variety of commodities that are important to the health of the rural economy in South Dakota, including beef, soybeans, wheat, corn and sorghum. As in the case of beef, for example, increasing market access under this agreement is imperative for ensuring our producers and ranchers maintain ample opportunity for promoting quality American beef. This opportunity will be facilitated by a low in-tariff quota that will promptly be zeroed out.

As in the case of soybeans, duties on soybeans used for processing will cease immediately. Duties on soybeans for processed soy products and other uses will be reduced by half in the first year, and eliminated entirely within a 5-year timeframe. Additionally, wheat will benefit from this bilateral FTA. Fluctuating weather conditions present problematic conditions for Moroccan farmers, and as a significant