

One final point—this is an energy State. You produce a lot of coal, and that's good. We need to do something about coal emissions so that we can say that we're energy independent and good stewards of the environment. And that's why Mitch and I are going to work with the Congress to pass substantial monies on clean coal technologies. Listen, we've got 250 years of supply. People are concerned about the dependency on foreign sources of energy; you ought to be. Dependency upon energy from somewhere else is a national security risk, and it's an economic security risk. And we can do something about it through technologies.

I want to share with you right quick an interesting—some interesting breakthroughs that are coming along. One, we spent a lot of money on research, as is the private sector, on new battery technologies. I believe within a reasonable period of time, you'll be able to plug your battery in your car—a plug-in battery in your car, so that you can run your first 40 miles on electricity, and you'll be happy to hear that the car is not going to look like a golf cart. *[Laughter]*

I believe you're going to be running your automobiles on ethanol made from switch grass or wood chips. I know that sounds science fiction to some of you, but that technology is coming. We're now using about 7 billion gallons of ethanol a year made from corn. I believe not only can we expand corn-based ethanol; I believe we're on the verge of technological breakthroughs to be able to make ethanol from things that—from refuse—as I said, switch grass. That's good for people like me who come from a State that's awfully dry.

But isn't it interesting, to be able to predict to the American people that our farmers are going to be vital producers of energy, that we'll be able to use our cars. And the more ethanol we use, obviously, the less gasoline you use, and the less gasoline you use, the less dependency on oil.

We're on the verge of some incredible—which leads me to conclude—oh, let me say one other thing about Mitch. Well, not one—it may not be the only thing I say about him. *[Laughter]* Mitch understands what I know, that we have a responsibility to fill our benches with judges who strictly interpret the law

and not try to legislate from the bench. We've got plenty of legislators in Washington; we don't need them doing that from the third branch of our Government. I am very proud—when it came time for tough fights on our judges, judges like John Roberts and Sam Alito, there was no stronger advocate for a sound judiciary than Senator Mitch McConnell.

And so I'd like to conclude by telling you, we've got a big agenda. And I believe we're going to get a lot of it accomplished, and one of the main reasons we're going to get a lot it accomplished is because you've sent a skillful legislator, a master of the United States Senate, to Washington, DC.

I'm here to ask the people of this State, when it comes time to vote, to think very carefully about your Senator. I know that some of them say, "Well, I can't vote for somebody who is a Republican, or somebody"—you know, based upon party. I ask the people to vote for a man who is competent, who is accomplished, who is good for the United States.

I want to thank you all for supporting this good man. I appreciate you coming out tonight. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. at the Seelbach Hilton Louisville. In his remarks, he referred to District Judge Robyn Williams of Kentucky's 40th Judicial District; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Tornado Damage in Enterprise, Alabama

March 3, 2007

You know, Mayor, I told the people yesterday that I come down with a heavy heart, and I will try, to the best of my ability, to comfort those who lost life and property. I know you and your council and the citizens here have done that as well.

I hope it helps for the citizens here to hear that we declared your county a major disaster area, which will provide some relief. You can

never heal a heart, but you can provide comfort, knowing that the Federal Government will provide help for those whose houses were destroyed or automobiles were destroyed. And I would strongly urge the citizens here to—if you've got a question, to call 1-800-621-FEMA, and there will be somebody answering your call and will give you a chance to find out whether or not you will qualify for the relief under the major disaster declaration.

Secondly, I was talking to the Governor, and he has said that there have been some funds set up to help the people who suffered. And my call to people here in Alabama and around the United States is, if you feel the generosity in your heart to help people affected by this terrible tornado, I would ask you to contribute. One such fund is the Red Cross. There will be others. We will make sure that USA Freedom Corps will have posted on it a place where people can contribute money. Some people are going to need your help. There have been some poor citizens who may or may not qualify for Federal help, but are going to need the help of our fellow citizens. And I would ask you to, out of the generosity of your heart, to help the folks down here.

This storm is a tough storm. It went 8 miles and affected a lot of lives. And this country is a prayerful country; there are a lot of people praying for you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:40 a.m. at Enterprise Municipal Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Kenneth W. Boswell of Enterprise, AL; and Gov. Bob Riley of Alabama.

Remarks Following a Tour of Enterprise High School and an Exchange With Reporters in Enterprise

March 3, 2007

The heart of a community like Enterprise, Alabama, is the schools. And today I have walked through devastation that's hard to describe. Our thoughts, of course, go out to the students who perished. We thank God for the hundreds who lived. I want the folks of Enterprise to know that to the extent the Government can, our Federal Government

can, in working with the State, we'll help rebuild the school system—this high school. We can never replace lives, and we can't heal hearts, except through prayer. And I know—I want the students to know and the families to know that there's a lot of people praying for them.

I met with the president of the student body, who recognizes that the end of her senior year is going to be difficult. But as a student leader, she will have the opportunity to help people rebuild, and that she will learn that out of the devastation—and her classmates will learn that out of the devastation can come hope and a better tomorrow.

And so we ask for the blessings on the students and their families. We ask for the blessings on the principal and the administrator. We thank this good community for rallying strongly by the side of those who have been affected. And I thank the people of Enterprise for the warm welcome I have received here.

The people of America have got to know that the citizens here, even though affected by devastation, have shown great courage and compassion for their citizens in need. And it's really part of the strength of the United States to know that there's such decent folks.

God bless everybody. Thank you all.

Aerial Tour of Areas Damaged by Tornadoes/Recovery

Q. How did it look from the air, sir?

The President. It looks as bad from the air as it looks from the ground. And you can see right here the effects of the storm. But the biggest effect of the storm is the shattered lives. We can rebuild buildings, and the fundamental question is, will the spirit stay strong in Enterprise, Alabama? And I predict that it not only will stay strong; it will be strengthened. That's my prediction. And it's easy to tell when you talk to the people, whether it's young or old, this town refuses to be devastated. This town is a town full of people that will not be—will not succumb to the effects of the storm. The mayor is strong; the principal of the school is strong; the Lieutenant; and the children, the high school seniors.

And so it's a—these are very tough times for the people here, and there are going to