

U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: IMPACT ON TENNESSEE WITH SENATOR BOB CORKER

Speaker 1: Making the world a better and safer place and we are honored by his presence as well as the presence of the leaders of our community, and so we want to now bless the food and thank the Lord for it.

Holy God, we thank you that from your hands we are fed and clothed, and we thank you that our Lord taught us that our heavenly father causes the rain to shine upon the just and the unjust and that we are responsible for one another, and in this globalized village now that we live in, it is our responsibility whatever our political persuasion or whatever part of the community that we represent especially if we lead it to responsibly engage in the needs of that global community and to do it with care and consideration. We thank you now for this food. We thank you for these wonderful leaders that are gathered here today because they care about these things, and we pray that your spirit will guide across the table the kinds of conversations today that will birth new ventures and be a blessing to the peoples of the world. Amen. Please enjoy your lunch.

Speaker 2: Thanks everyone. We are going to go ahead and get started. They are setting up some extra seats in the back and some more on the side, so if you can please find a seat, and they'll continue to serve lunch while our program goes on. Everyone please welcome our executive director, Liz Schrayner.

Liz: Good afternoon everyone. One thing I've learned is Tennesseans show up. You're all fabulous. I know that there are a lot of people still without seats and lunch is being served, but I want to be respectful to both the senator and governor who have tight schedules today, so we want to continue the program.

Good afternoon again. I'm Liz Schrayner. I'm the founding executive director of this group, The US Global Leadership Coalition that is organizing today's event, and I'm absolutely thrilled to be in Nashville and be with all of you. As I watched the news over the last week, I couldn't help but think about how timely this discussion was as well as how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to have a conversation about America's role in the world with one of the most thoughtful foreign policy thinkers in our country today, and Senator Corker, I know I speak for everybody that not only do we thank you for being here today, but we thank you for leading and being a voice, for making sure that America has the tools, the resources, the policies in our foreign policy to advance our national interests, and we thank you.

There are a lot of VIPs here, I think about 300 of them, but I especially want to thank the state and local officials, governor, our secretary of state from Tennessee that's here and Congressman Jim Cooper, who has been a great friend in Washington, for joining us today. I can't name them all, but when you

look at the back of the program, you'll see a list of a fabulous group of members of the Tennessee, our advisory committee led by our new co-chair, Senator Frist and Governor Bredesen, and we thank each and every one of you for being part of that committee.

Who is the US Global Leadership Coalition? We were called years ago by the Washington Post, the strange bedfellow coalition. In Washington, as you know, not enough of different types of people talk with one another. We're very proud that we have brought together over four hundred businesses and non-profits, groups from CARE to Caterpillar from WalMart to World Vision, from American Red Cross, FedEx, APAC and so many more. We boast an advisory council of kind of the who's who of national foreign policy and national security expertise. It is chaired by General Colin Powell. It includes every living secretary, former living secretary of state from Henry Kissinger to Hillary Clinton. Along our leadership is a growing voice of the military. We have over a hundred and fifty, three and four-star retired generals who have added their voice as part of our national security advisory council to the importance of not the military, which they believe in very strongly, but the civilian tools of global engagement, and a group, many of whom are in this room, of thirty thousand veterans who call themselves Veterans For Smart Power.

What brings this strange bedfellow coalition together is our belief that America must remain engaged and be a leader in the world not just because it's the right thing to do as Pastor Scott said so beautifully a few moments ago, but which is very important, but it's also the smart thing to do. That a small and strategic investment, just 1% of our budget, for programs in global health, in economic development and diplomacy are really essential for our long term interests in terms of our economic and security. I mentioned to someone this afternoon I'm going to fly out to my alma mater to help move in my youngest son to college, and I'm thinking about my own studies of international relations and how I used to have debates about whether or not we should use more hard power or we should use more soft power. It's a debate that I think about my son and our children that are in school today will never because it's an outdated debate. That's not the debate. The debate is about how we use our smart power.

What we mean by smart power is the use of development and diplomacy along side defense. The use of a range of tools to advance our security and economic interests. Now I know that there are a lot of Americans who think, have a very wildly incorrect view of how much foreign assistance we spend in this country. All the polls show that they believe, that Americans believe, we spend about 25% of our federal budget on foreign assistance when the actual number is just 1% The good news is that it's really working. It's really working, and we need to hold it up to make sure it's accountable, transparent, results-driven as much as any other part of the federal budget. In your table you'll see a little of

what I call the ring of success stories about various ways that the 1% is making a difference for us. Stories like in South Korea who were a foreign aid recipient just 40 years ago and today the seventh largest creating partner for America.

I was in Africa just a few months ago, and I went to South Sudan and Tanzania, and of all my trips, this one I will never forget a woman named Veronica who you can see. Veronica is a small shareholder farmer in a very rural part of Tanzania, and she was barely able to make ends meet. She told me about when she started working with a program in the US called Feed the Future, how she changed her life because it taught her how to get a more effective and efficient crop. She told me today she has a used truck that she can now buy. She sends all eleven of her grandchildren to school, and she is teaching 15 other women in her village the same kinds of wonderful programs she learned.

What we're going to talk about today is this question of what America's role is in the world. We all know the economic situation is quite serious in this country as well as around the world, and so you ask, is it worth it? Does our investment in the world matter to us here at home? What I look at and I'd end with is that I think the answer lies in this room. That American innovation is changing this world and understands how important the world is. I'm all over the country. People, Americans in private sector and nonprofits who are innovating smart power in a way that's making a distance overseas and here. Like Chris Bollinger, I don't know if I've seen him yet, if he's gotten here, but a president of Ekiti, which is a Nashville-based energy company, who is partnering with US government to help bring power and electricity to people like Veronica in Tanzania and Kenya. Remember in those countries in African, 85% of them don't have access to power.

Caterpillar, a huge important company here in the state, has a program called, Equip Youth, where they are bringing and helping young people get into the labor community, very important and very fragile states where the economic is key to the stability. FedEx, who does enormous work in helping in disaster relief in all throughout the world. A couple, who I don't know if they've also gotten here yet, but Steve and Cheryl Jones, right here from Nashville, who took their 30 year Tennessee plant nursery and they partnered with the same program, Feed the Future, the same one that Veronica I talked about did, to improve the livelihood of Rwanda farmers and reduce the number of malnourished children.

I think American's really get it. I think Americans understand that we can do good and we can do well, that we can help people overseas, and we can create stability and we can create jobs right here at home. I thank you. I thank you for being a part of this conversation today, but I think more importantly I thank you for being part of our journey. The journey that I ask you to join us on is to add your voice, just like Senator Corker does each and every day, about what the

proper role of America is in the world, why we need to be engaged and that journey I am certain will lead us to building a better, safer, more prosperous America. With that as an introduction, I would like to welcome two of our wonderful advisory council members, Wayne Culbreth and Wes Blumenshine, to the podium.

Wayne: Thank you Liz. Good afternoon, I'm Wayne Culbreth. I'm a US Army veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and a member of the USGLC Veterans for Smart Power Initiative. I've been fortunate to see the tremendous value of smart power from a number of different angles. As a soldier in Iraq, working with humanitarian organizations throughout the continent of Africa and as a businessman here in Tennessee. While commanding a cavalry troop with Tennessee 278 Armored Cavalry regiment, I got the opportunity to work with local leaders in developing economic development strategies for Eastern Diyala Province. I saw first hand that the military alone was not enough to keep us safe. That it's the investment in smart power, our non-military tools of development diplomacy along side the military that is critical in moving from the chaos of war to the stability of peace. I returned to civilian life convinced that former secretary of defense, Bob Gates, was right when he said development is a lot of cheaper than sending soldiers.

I returned to Iraq and worked in the private sector. I went to Africa to help dig wells and build health clinics in hopes of preventing poverty and create opportunity. I am more convinced than ever that Senator Bob Corker is right. Investing in smart and effective tools of global engagement is just smart policy to protect our national security. Development in diplomatic programs, fight terrorism, support allies and create stability so that we put our military in harm's way only as a last resort. That's why I'm proud to stand with nearly 150 retired three-star and four-star generals and admirals who make up the USGLC's national security advisory council as well as nearly 30,000 veterans and supporters nationwide who make up the Veterans for Smart Power Initiative.

Now I'm not alone in this commitment. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the brave men and women who are here today that have kept our country safe and protect our freedom, so I would like to ask my fellow veterans if you would stand and let us acknowledge you and salute you for your service.

Wes: Thank you Wayne for those remarks. Good afternoon. I am Wes Blumenshine. I am a proud Caterpillar employee for 25 years. Caterpillar is proud to be not only a part of today's program but also to serve on the USGLC's national board of directors, a great organization doing necessary work in the world. As one of America's most successful exporters, Caterpillar has long realized that our prosperity is directly linked to economic events and trends occurring beyond our borders. We know that if we are going to access consumers who live outside of the US, then we need to ensure that our country has the development and

diplomatic programs in place to make American businesses competitive. This helps us export more American products and services and ultimately leads to job creation right here at home.

We don't need to look very far to find evidence of how global engagement impacts us right here in Tennessee, and these are some amazing statistics. Today trade supports over 21% of the jobs in Tennessee. In 2011 Tennessee exported over 30 billion dollars in goods and services to foreign markets. Over 82% of Tennessee companies that export their products are small or medium-sized businesses like MGM Industries and Border Jump. At Caterpillar we like to say that development begins quite literally with a road. It goes without saying that we know how to produce the equipment needed to build those roads, but it's the development and diplomacy programs funded by the US International Affairs budget that in the broadest sense provide the foundation that allows those developments to take place. I don't want you to just take my word for it. We've asked a top-notch team of experts to lay out the case for today's discussion in more detail. Let's watch:

Video:

With our economy the way it is today, some people are asking why we're spending so much money overseas and not on creating jobs right here at home. Well, actually we're not spending much money, just 1% of our national budget goes to the International Affairs Budget. That's not a lot. Helping create American jobs is just what that money is doing. If you want to create jobs, you have to create more demand for products and services. You need more customers. Where are American companies finding more customers? Not here, but here, and here and here. Ninety-five percent of the world's customers live outside the US. Ninety-five percent. When we sell goods to them, they're called exports. US exports counted for a big part of our economic growth last year. Half went to developing countries, and their economies are growing three times faster than developed countries. Every 10% increase in exports equals a 7% increase in jobs here. How do we increase exports? Build new markets for American goods and services. Remember that 1%? America's International Affairs Budget helps fund programs that improve health and education, supports agriculture development, builds a stable economy and creates new markets. If we don't go to the biggest, fastest growing group of consumers, other countries will. Other countries already are. Investing a small amount in global development and diplomacy is not only the right thing to do, it's also the smart thing to do to make our economy stronger, to create more jobs for my mom, for my dad or my neighbor, for me.

Wes:

From the mouth of babes comes common sense, clear-headed thinking, and I'm sure you're as hopeful as I am for our future after watching that video. It is now my distinct honor to introduce our governor, Bill Haslam. Today's conversation about America's global leadership and its impact on Tennessee is one that could

not take place without the governor of our great state. Governor Haslam had dedicated much of his prestigious career and tenure as governor to jobs and economic development. He understands that 95% of the world's consumers live outside the United States and for our economy to grow, we need to invest in opening new markets for our goods and services.

Attending his first trade mission to Japan last year, Governor Haslam underscored the importance that Japanese companies have within our state economy. The 133 Japanese companies operating in Tennessee account for 14 billion dollars in capital investment and employ over 33,000 people. This past February Governor Haslam and the economic community development commissioner announced an international strategy focused on increasing the exports of Tennessee goods to key markets around the globe. Our governor fully understands that smart power and our engagement in the world is vital to building a better, safer world and a more prosperous America and Tennessee. Governor, we are honored to have you join us this afternoon to introduce our keynote speaker. Please join me in welcoming Governor Bill Haslam.

Bill: Thanks Wes, and thank you all. What a great room of people. It's an honor to be here.

One of those exports is a reason I was a little late and that I might have a distinctive aroma about me right now. One of Tennessee's more famous exports is a product they make south of here in Lynchburg called Jack Daniels, and they just announced a new hundred million dollar expansion. I've been standing in one of their warehouses for about 45 minutes, so if I smell a little like I have been somewhere besides work, I promise that's where I've been.

Tennessee's economy is incredibly tied to the world. You think about the brands that we know here in Tennessee that we send out from here, in brands that have come in and if you work your way, whether it be FedEx or Nissan or Volkswagen or Eastman Chemical, I could go on and on. The global impact on our economy is immeasurable, but there's more to it than that.

When the pastor was giving the invocation, he quoted that line that we hear a lot about being a "city on a hill." A lot of you all know that came from John Winthrop. He came over with the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He came over as governor/pastor, kind of interesting role, and he gave this sermon right before they left England on what would be a 10 or 11-week boat journey here. What his message to them was about it being a city upon a hill but he said, really, we're a commonwealth. Massachusetts is still called a commonwealth. Virginia is still called a commonwealth, but the idea was we're not here just by our self. It's

bigger than that. We're here for the common good of ourselves, but he said, "Don't mislead yourself into thinking that we're just separating from England. We are still a part of them." That's the message I think that we have in the world today.

It is an honor for me to introduce the two folks here today. David Brody has an incredible background. If you're thinking there's not much a balance in the world, here is someone who's interviewed President Obama and Sarah Palin. He's interviewed Newt Gingrich and Hillary Clinton. He's interviewed Harry Reid and Mitt Romney. Right now he's the chief political editor for CBN, but he's also been a political correspondent for the whole spectrum, for Fox, for CNN, for MSNBC. Wherever you like to turn on the dial, you've probably heard his insight. He's an Emmy Award winner as well.

My main purpose today is introduce somebody that I've known for – I've certainly lose track of the years but he's getting closer to 40, 35-something years. I knew him when I was in high school and he was in college. It's amazing to me that the person here to talk about global leadership is someone who started his business career putting in drive-in windows for fast food restaurants. It is a long jump from there to here, but those of us who've known Bob for a long time aren't surprised in the least, because you know this. If you put anybody who's going to be successful, I think there are three or four common qualities.

Number one, it helps if they work hard. It helps if they work really, really hard. I'll talk to Bob some time and he'll say, "Well, I'm on my way back from Syria." Then I'll talk to him about 12 hours later, he's saying, "Well, I'm getting ready to go talk to a group in Tipton County." I'm like, "Those are two pretty different worlds." Somewhere in there, I don't know – I assume he slept, but if you know Bob at all, you know he's somebody who works really hard. Number two, you know that he's somebody who's smart and he will dig in to get the right answer. Number three, and maybe the most important, he's in this for the right reason.

In doing what we do, we meet a lot of people and people do this for a whole lot of different reasons, but Bob – I hope I'm not quoting from something you're getting ready to say, but really, this is kind of – you might think is a disconnect but decided to run for mayor, one of the things that motivate him was an experience he had in Haiti where he saw what it looked like when there were problems that seemed unsolvable and then the power of good government to fix things when good government was applied. Bob has done that. Sometimes he gets grief from people on all sides of political issue, but the reason he does is because Bob is truly trying to solve the problem. If we had a whole lot more people who are truly trying to solve the problem, we would have a lot fewer problems.

Let me just tell you one last story and then I'll ask Senator Corker to come up. I was talking to Bob back during the financial crisis, '08 I guess, and Bob was on the banking committee. Even though he was one of the newest members, he quickly had become kind of a go-to person because he understood the issues. He's incredibly complex. Talking to him, he said, "Well, I was talking to Secretary Paulson." I said, "How did you get – I mean, these are tough issues. How did you get to where you knew enough to not be afraid to ask a question?" He said, "Well, I learned something. When you're a United States senator, anybody in the world you call will call you back," right? You learn that a little bit. It's kind of like governors, like, [inaudible 29:15]. I said, "How are we going to get a hold of them?" "Call them and tell them you're the governor. They might call you back."

Well, Bob learned that as the United States senator, and so he said something interesting to me. He said, "There's no excuse not to have done your homework because you have every resource you need at the phone in terms of the smartest people in the world." One of those smart people and somebody I'm incredibly glad of serving our state is our senator, Bob Corker.

Jim: Senator, before you start, we have a little something we want to give you.

On behalf of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition and supporters across the state of Tennessee, it is our honor to present you with this globe in recognition for your outspoken and effective leadership to date and we know to come. The inscription reads, "Senator Bob Corker, with appreciation for your commitment to the U.S. International Affairs Budget, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, August 22nd, 2013."

Bob: Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you very much. Thank you, thank you. Thank you, Jimmy.

Well, thank you. I am somewhat overwhelmed with this turnout in the number of people that I respect so much from around Tennessee, and certainly here in Nashville, so thank you for this. This is quite an outpouring, and I think an important event for our state and country. I want to thank so much the Coalition for having the farsightedness to begin working on these kinds of issues, and long before anyone knew or thought I would be a ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

For what it's worth, this coalition began meeting with me and talking with me about the importance of smart power, and certainly I agree with that, but again, to see this group of people here in Middle Tennessee on a topic like this is quite overwhelming, so thank you.

Dan, thank you for your comments and your prayer.

As Governor Haslam mentioned, my trip to Haiti, and of course subsequent trips as a United States senator, had a huge impact on me. I probably would not be standing at this podium if I had not gone on a mission trip there at the age of 28, and I so much appreciate what you had to say, Jim Frierson. Thank you for being the “energizer bunny” of every important issue, it seems, that takes place and for your leadership in Chattanooga, but I think many of you know Jim was involved early on, years ago, and involving U.S. trade around the world, and I thank you for your leadership and certainly for being a part of this.

Liz probably is the best person you could possibly have forwarding this coalition. She’s dynamic. She spent 10 years, by the way, with APAC, and I don’t know of any of you who have been involved with that organization, but I do not know of an organization in America that does a better job of putting itself forward. So Liz, thank you for your energy and your foresight and for asking me to be here.

Wes and Wayne, obviously approaching it from a little bit different point of view, and I appreciate that because we have a debate right now about smart power and it really affects every aspect of U.S. society, so I thank you.

And of course, Governor Haslam. I’ve known him, actually, Governor, it’s been four years. I was counting it up yesterday. I appreciate you going down to Moore County to the Jack Daniels distributorship. I actually will admit I had a sip last night. It was pretty good. But actually I do enjoy ... I was just a couple of days ago on the Turkish border of Syria and on the Jordanian border of Syria and then Iraq, and I do enjoy the fact that it’s one of those universal brands that you mention. I mean, it’s everywhere.

Thank you for your tremendous leadership and for having the sensibilities to bring people together around the tough issues that our state faces. I don’t know of anybody who’s more focused on ensuring that Tennessee is not only doing well here for its citizens but is connected to the world in a way that enhances life, like this wonderful film we just saw. So I thank you very, very much for that and for your friendship and look forward to seeing you tomorrow in Chattanooga.

I don’t give long talks. I’m not much of a speechmaker. I’m looking forward to David interviewing me much like others do. It’s a much better way for me to communicate and actually talk about the things that all of you care about. If I go off on a long speech today and we don’t have time for Q&A, obviously it’s likely that I will not talk about the things you want to hear. But let me just give a couple of comments.

We do have a debate in America right now and it’s a debate that I’m afraid has a lot of demagoguing taking place and not the kind of factual presentations that I know will take place today and have taken place by earlier speakers.

There's no question that since the financial crisis that Bill Hasam referred to back in 2008, what's happened in our nation is we've become more nativist in our views and inward-looking because we're concerned about how our economy here is, as we should be. In that, we've lost a little feeling about ourselves. We've questioned a lot of things. The free market system has been questioned.

A lot about the United States has been questioned by our citizenry, and in that type of atmosphere, a vacuum is created and people can begin to say things about this very topic that you're talking about today that, in my opinion, are not the way forward for us to go.

And so there is this debate. It's an important debate, and I think you hear people taking advantage. As was mentioned, we spent about 1% of our country's budget, not our GDP but our budget, on foreign aid, and yet, if you would hear the talk, the conversation that takes place on the Senate floor sometimes, and sometimes on the Sunday morning programs, you would think it's that 25% number that was alluded to a minute ago.

I heard one of my colleagues, that's a word we use in Washington, I apologize, I heard another senator say last Sunday morning on one of these programs that all of us participate in, that we're giving aid to a country and they don't even like us. Well, that's not why we do what we do.

I mean, the reason that we are involved around the world and the reason that we do the things that we do around the world or should do them is because it's in our own interest. I mean, that's what the U.S. government is about is advancing our own United States interest, and nothing could be more stark in that debate than the debate we're having right now over Egypt.

I know they were here to talk about smart power and some of that aid is certainly not focused necessarily on the kind of aid that you're talking about today, but if you think about it, we have 4 ½% of the world's population in the United States of America, 4 ½%. We have 22% of the world's economic output.

What that means to people here in Middle Tennessee is that we are far, far more focused on what's happening around the world for our own standard of living here than other countries are. There's no country in the world that has that kind of ratio, 4 ½% of the citizenry, 22% of our country's gross domestic product.

So things that matter, like for instance, us having first-priority shipment, our U.S. ships, through the Suez Canal right now. We get priority there. Sometimes, people in Tennessee that are focused on raising their families and going to work and doing the things that they do don't sit back and think about the fact of how important that is to our economy. I was interviewed just a few days ago by a lady

whose day job is with Marriott, and Marriott in that part of the world is certainly being affected, and that affects jobs back here.

But also, our security. I mean, the fact that people can get up here on Sunday morning then and feel relative security going to church that morning, having jihadists in the northeastern part of the Sinai Desert is something that over time breeds a situation that can create insecurities here in our country.

So I hope that what you will do, and I hope that what we as policymakers will do, is more clearly lay out to folks that the reason we do the things with the 1% of the budget that we have here in the United States as far as our government spending goes, the reason we do that is because it's in U.S. national interest to do that.

I think you've all done an outstanding job today in your earlier presentations laying that out. I think it's very, very important for our nation to be able to do that on a steady basis because, and again, in this spirit of time, where United States citizens are shaken, really, by the state that we find ourselves in, where our economy is not where it should be, where we have these tremendous fiscal issues, where we have this discourse, it's easily to step into that and demagogue in a way that I think is very, very bad for our country.

I want to speak on just a couple more topics and then turn it over to you, and I hope you ask really good questions, okay?

One of the big issues that I know that Liz spoke of, South Korea, and I was also recently just there, right after President Park came into office. As a matter of fact, I was there, I was with Abe in Japan. He just came into office. I was in China. We had new leadership there. It was all happening at the same time.

One of the greatest threats to smart power or to U.S. aid in general, really, again, is ourselves. We're going to have a debate this fall about a very important issue that affects all of us, and I think that most of you know I've been centrally involved in this issue, which is our fiscal issue. I've got a meeting at the White House on the 29th to again try to further that discussion.

But I will tell you that as much as we're doing right now hopefully furthering our cause with aid and the kind of things that are happening around the world, we're being hurt far more by this issue of not being able to deal with our fiscal issue.

President Park, again, a country that years ago we hated, now they're a huge trading partner for the United States. They're a country of stability in that region. This little lady, about this tall, just wore me out. I was actually kind of taken aback by our meeting. It lasted much longer than I thought, and I got to none of

my topics, okay? But she just absolutely tore into me in a fairly diplomatic way about the fiscal situation that we find our country in.

I find this all over the world where people are questioning whether the United States of America is going to be able to honor the commitments that we have to places like South Korea, to places like Japan. I think you see the outgrowth of that where the Japanese prime minister is now looking at potentially changing the constitution of the country, doing things that cause them to be far more militarily engaged, something that as you know after World War II they went in a very different direction with our leadership.

These things play themselves out in a way that certainly make our country, in my opinion, the world much less safe.

We have some opportunities, and I'll speak briefly of those and then sit down. I talked to the Governor after being at a security conference in Munich earlier this year, and I have to tell you, I was pretty puffed up. I went to this meeting with McCain and Graham and Ayotte and a couple of others and it was mostly focused, as many generals here in the room today and other military folks know, on our security arrangements with our NATO allies and others.

But at this conference each year, the leading business people sit down with us, the leading business people in Germany, and I've got to be honest, it felt pretty good especially with my friends there, all they wanted to focus on was Tennessee. I've got to tell you, it made me and the Governor feel really, really good. I probably was smiling a lot during that meeting.

I will tell you, the thing that I learned, though, and I know the Governor and I have talked a great deal about it, and the reason I say "Tennessee" is because people in Europe have realized that Tennessee is a great place to do business. They understand the relationship that we have developed with Volkswagen and other companies, and more and more German businesses want to be a part of that.

But the energy breakthroughs that we have in this nation are phenomenal, and what especially is happening in the natural gas market, we know that companies from Japan and other places have found Tennessee to be a great place to invest, and they do that because of the things Governor Haslam and so many others have done. That is, we've created a great place to do business. We have wonderful people here. The work ethic is outstanding. So they've come and invested here for products that they want to sell to United States citizens.

Because of the energy breakthroughs that are happening, and, candidly, because of some not good decisions that are being made in Germany and other places regarding their future energy needs, they're beginning to want to invest in this

nation, to ship products, believe it or not, back to Europe, and that is a tremendous sea change for us.

I know the business people who spoke here earlier before me know that, secondly, we have tremendous opportunities right now as a country with this transatlantic trade agreement that is being discussed by the administration. I've met with the EU officials regarding this. We're doing everything we can in our office to make this happen, but also, the transpacific partnership that both of which could come to fruition over the next two years.

So that's a gamut of issues that I hope touches both the human side, Dan, which has touched me, has touched ...

Let me just say, I digress for one second, I also just recently was through Northern Africa: Senegal, Mali, Tunisia, and Algeria. And especially in a place like Mali. Incredibly impoverished place. I think you all know that the French army just was in there dealing with Al-Qaeda-like groups and other militant groups that are going back and forth between Mali and Algeria.

The longer-term vision of ensuring that people have economic opportunities, that they have the ability to live in a way that is not totally impoverished for the rest of their life, those are the longer-term things that again are in our national interest. They also speak to American values.

But it's important for us to realize that many of the issues we deal with are acute, like Syria, like Egypt, but many of them are longer-term issues, and it's that aid that hopefully improves the lives of people there immediately, improves governance, improves democracy movement, improves transparency and corruption. Those are the kind of things, over time that keep those kinds of conflicts, that take the very men and women that you honored earlier – that keep them from having to go into conflict. All of those are reasons for our nation to continue to understand the importance of smart power. I thank you for that and, David, I look forward to sitting down and talking about the things that all of you would really like to talk about. Thank you very much.

David Brody: Senator, that was great. Thank you.

Sen. Corker: Thank you.

David Brody: A politician who is short and to the point; you're looking at one right here, ladies and gentlemen.

Sen. Corker: I'm definitely short. I've got that.

David Brody: Well ... Senator, before we get to some of the questions, just a few housekeeping notes. This is going to be about a 25-minute, 30-minute or so moderated conversation, and I've done these about four, five, six times, somewhere in there – I've lost count. Believe me, after 25 minutes, they will pull the plug, so we want to keep this relatively brief and just keep it moving.

I should also say that we are being followed on the – we're being followed right now. The NSA ... No, applause for the NSA ...

Sen. Corker: Especially the young people, I've noticed, clap at that right now.

David Brody: We are being seen on the internet, and so if you go to #SmartPower on Twitter, we can get a conversation and dialogue going there – so we should point that out.

Senator, let me ask you real quick about Egypt and Syria, just, if not clarify, expand a little bit on what's going on, as we say in the business, "Breaking news." There are facts on the ground when it comes to what's going on in those countries and at the same time there are long-term American interests at stake, and so where is the balancing act? How do you see this ultimately playing out, especially as it relates to what we've been talking about, Smart Power?

Sen. Corker: Let's start with Egypt. I know the military people in the room and others who've been so involved in foreign policy know that we have about 11,000 officers within the Egyptian military that have been trained in this country and for that reason they understand American values, and we've had ties, obviously for a long, long time. Sisi, who's leading the country right now, was trained in the United States of America.

Look, I condemn what the military has done over the last two or three week. I condemn the heavy-handedness that has occurred with The Muslim Brotherhood. At the same time, let's face it. Let's just realize The Muslim Brotherhood was involved in a political, there's no question. They were elected and then immediately began concentrating power to themselves, taking away – moving away from the whole notion of rights, human rights and certainly minority rights.

I think one of the mistakes that we make in our country is, we think if we move to the ballot box with an election that we've created democracy. Unfortunately, in so many Middle Eastern places – and I was just with Prime Minister Maliki, in Iraq, and he's candidly doing the same thing. Now, it's a much lower level, but so many people that get elected quickly, in the Middle East, think the election and the ballot box is democracy, where all of us know it's about governance and

it's about making sure you're inclusive. It's about making sure that you're causing the country to function.

Look, my position is very nuanced. I've talked repeatedly with the White House this week and the week before from there – and that is this, look, I understand we've got to spend some money; I understand that. The military has not conducted itself in an appropriate way. The last thing we want to do, though, is cut off our ties. My sense is, we've been doing the same thing in Egypt now for 35 years; it's the same kind of aid every year. They ask us for the same type of foreign military cells. I see these military leaders shaking their heads up and down ...

This is a bad situation that's developed. We're now in what I would call the cycle of revenge, where one group kills a group, another group rises up and it's, again, standard operating procedure in so many places in the Middle East, where aunts and uncles and sisters end up being killed, and then they want to seek revenge on others – I mean, relatives of some getting killed want to seek revenge.

To me, this is a tremendous opportunity, not one that's come because of good circumstances, for us to recalibrate our relationship. I do not want to terminate relationship to Egypt; I think that is absolutely cutting our nose off to spite our face. We need to have a relationship with the military. We need to have a relationship through our other soft power, which is the citizens of Egypt. Again, one of my "friends" in the Senate last week was saying, "Why do we give aid to these people? They don't even like us?"

Well, you know, I wish they liked us, but candidly, we do it because it's in our national interests. I think we will move ahead in that way. I sense that we will suspend some, we'll recalibrate, we will continue to be engaged, and we need to be the voice of calm. Look, we're the greatest nation in the world, and that's why you all are here talking about this topic. For the United States of America not to act with calmness, not to be reacting because of our personal egos over the fact that they didn't do exactly what we wanted to do – that's not the way for us to respond.

Our way of responding should be that we are mature, we are the greatest nation on earth – it is our role to try to create calmness in a situation like we have. We know that our friends and their neighbors – the UAE, Saudi Arabia, let's face it, they have a different goal. They want The Muslim Brotherhood crushed, you know? Our aid, at least the aid we're talking about is about \$1.5 billion – they've committed \$12 billion and already delivered \$5 billion – so, their influence is different. I think that sometimes we think that we can just wave a wand because we're the United States of America and things are going to be different – it's not that way.

Still, I promise you, everybody in the region does take note when we speak – does take note when we act. Again, it's in our nation's best interests to continue to be very, very involved in Egypt ... and Syria - I've answered so long, I'll be brief – look, I've been multiple times to the Syrian border, both on the Turkish side and Jordanian side, and I know Assad. I was with him prior to this conflict beginning. We had national interests when Assad began doing what he was doing with the citizenry there. There's no question we had some national interest.

I would say the national interest that our nation has, has multiplied greatly since you've seen the al Qaeda elements moving into Syria. Our goal there, in my opinion, and I sat down with General Idris in Turkey – he's not like some of the generals that are here, that - I saw one of them in the gentlemen's room a minute ago – not like our commanding generals, he's more of a defense minister bureaucrat type guy – but I still believe, and I authored a bill to do this, that what we should be doing in Syria is to be training and equipping and supporting through humanitarian efforts the vetted, moderate opposition there. I think we should be focused on the day after Assad –

I'm very concerned that the aid that we have said we're going to give covertly, which I think should be given in another way, but we're doing covertly – the President's announced and it's been on the front of the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, the Tennessean, and every other publication, and yet – "It's covert" – we've got to, I think, step it up. I'm very concerned that the trickling that's happening, actually the arms and especially the ammunition have not yet made it there. We're training in Jordan covertly, which means it's a trickle train.

The big debate right now is, are we going to move to military training, which is industrial-strength – and that's the debate that's happening right now. I do believe we need to support with humanitarian aid, but also with training and equipping the moderate secular group, because now it's that second war that's most important, and that's one between the more extreme groups that have affiliated with al Qaeda and this more moderate group of folks. Candidly, there's about 1200 of them – they're not unified, and we're hoping that around General Idris we can make something more happen.

I will say it's having a hugely destabilizing effect on Jordan. Jordan has 6,000,000 folks in it, about like Tennessee, the size of Indiana – they'll have - by the end of this year about 20% of their population will be Syrians. They have almost no water in that country. They're the fourth lowest in the world. Their water resources are being stained; their power is being constrained. They have people that are coming in with arms. It's going to destabilize the country if something doesn't change. It's having a hugely negative effect right now on Iraq, where, again, due to poor governance Iraq – al Qaeda is finding it's way back in.

Syria is very important to us. Egypt is very important to us, and as a nation we need to continue to stay involved and step it up, in my opinion, in Syria.

David Brody: All right – we are going to do a few more questions here. We are going to open it up to folks in the room, all of you. If there is a question that you have, please write it down. There should be some index cards and you can write them down, and the staff here will collect them and we'll ask those questions in a moment.

I do want to ask you a little bit about – the Mayor of Chattanooga, a businessman, a very successful one at that – how exactly, if you can, as we say in the media business or in the TV business, "dumb it down" for us a little bit – but, how does American global enterprise - the American markets in essence, are helped through Smart Power here in Tennessee, in other words, take me through the chain a little bit in somewhat of a Reader's Digest form as to why people should even care about this here in Tennessee.

Sen. Corker: I'll give you again just the formula that I want to repeat over and over again, because it's been, I think, our best way to talk to citizens about aid, especially when so much rhetoric is around this issue. Again, I go back to the fact that, look, I guess people measure these things in different ways – I would say we have the highest standard of living in the world, okay? We have the best opportunity for young people who are in this room, because of the way this nation is.

Again, if you just go back to the basic issue of having 4.5% of the population and 22% of the world's GDP, it matters that we are involved globally. The reason that we have such a different standard of living and economic output than so many other countries is because of our involvement in globalization. Look, I missed a few votes – I apologize for that, but coming back, in two of the three meetings we had with Volkswagen were around my dining room table in Chattanooga – and they came –

I will tell you this, I have been touched by a lot of things – as a matter of fact, when I was mayor of the city – when you're mayor, you're – as Bill Purcell, my friend, knows, you're a civic leader, you're a business leader, and you're a spiritual leader, if you go about in the right way. There are touching moments that occur, I think, every single week you're a mayor; as a senator, it doesn't happen quite as often. The most overwhelming incident, moment, that's ever occurred to me in my public life, I can't even talk about it now – was announcing that Volkswagen was coming to Chattanooga, Tennessee, because I knew that immediately thousands of people's lives were going to be immediately impacted.

To have that kind of relations that we have in this country, to keep safe passage of our vessels around the world, to be able to deal with governments around the

world when issues are involved – I mean, Caterpillar was up here earlier – they know for sure the impact of all of this. Again, I can take you from where we are with this formula to again the most moving experience that has ever happened to me, ever in public life, and that is knowing that because of the efforts of our nation, and certainly the efforts at the local and state level, we had a company that was going to come to Chattanooga and it was going to affect immediately thousands of families.

David Brody: Speaking of these moving experiences, you mentioned at the podium that when you were 28 you went to Haiti and you said that you would not literally be part of this movement, most likely, if you didn't go to Haiti. Explain what happened there, and especially as it relates to the compassion angle when it comes to Smart Power and why that's so vital in all of this.

Sen. Corker: Well, I went on a church mission trip when I was 28 years old and the church that I attended needed someone who knew a little bit about construction to lead this effort, and that were me, okay? I went and I know that so many people in this room have had these same kinds of experiences – I know members of Dan's congregation certainly have – I think to go to a place where people are so impoverished and yet they appreciate so much with so little that they have, the little effort –

Let's face it, you go on these trips, you go down, you come back – who is the person that's affected? Is it the person in Haiti that you helped with maybe a minor clinic or something where you're adding onto the school, or is it you? I would suggest that most Americans who've done that, and I know we have many in the room that have, you're the person that ends up being touched by that experience.

I couldn't be traveling around the world doing missional things – I had a company that was growing at 80% a year and was by that time operating around the country, so I began looking at issues within my own community. That let me to understand we had lots of people there without decent housing. I led a civic endeavor to help about 10,000 families there have decent housing, began talking about it, and thus I'm here today. That is it.

I think from the standpoint, though - Haiti is a place that just is so, it just seems like we're never going to get there. The governance structure down there is so terrible and always has been, and it's sad, and we have so many people from Tennessee that are directly involved there. I would say, on a bigger basis – let's face it – people around the world, if they have an opportunity to see that economically their life can be improved through appropriate means, if they see that there's a way forward, they're far less likely, far less likely to be involved in things that – its' not unlike what we find in cities all across America, in inner-city

populations where people have no hope and things end up occurring that are harmful to our country.

Smart Power is a longer-term approach, okay? It's longer-term approach, and I'm using you all's word, by the way. It's not a term I use a lot, but I'm going to use it because you all use it – I talk about it in different ways. It's a longer-term approach at trying to alleviate some of the very same problems that we try to alleviate in our own nature, so that over time behavior and opportunity, and certainly not to speak even of PEPFAR and all the things that our nation – our nation can be certainly hugely proud of what we have done, especially around HIV. It is unbelievable what the United States of America has done with compassion to save the lives of so many people around the world.

Again, those kind of things give people hope. It's less likely, with that hope, that behavior that's detrimental to the world takes place.

David Brody: There are a few questions here that I want to ask you, from the audience. Lizzy Long, who is a U.S. Marine veteran, asks this question to you, Senator: What or who do you see as the greatest threat to the security of the United States, and what steps can we take to increase our security?

Sen. Corker: Yeah – look, it's hands-down, it's a simple no-brainer – it's us. It's a no-brainer. Our inability to have the discipline and courage to deal with the fiscal issues that our nation is dealing with right now is by far the greatest threat to our nation. Nothing else compares, nothing.

David Brody: There is a question from someone named Blewett, who is director of international business in the Nashville area chamber of commerce, and asks this: In today's hyper-competitive global economy, what more can be done to strengthen our city and state's economic prospects? I think the key word there would be "strengthen." What can be done in today's global economy? Things are changing – things have been changing for a while.

Sen. Corker: Well, obviously I believe the best things that happen to improve communities happen at the state and local level – but, look, the world is changing rapidly. I think about the way I made a living and the way that I was able to have a degree of success was in a kind of a traditional business that, thankfully, is still needed and other people are doing those kind of things too. But, the advancements, the competitiveness that we have with other countries is fascinating.

When we thought Japan we're going to be the country, and to those of who are Japanese, I apologize – when we thought they were going to be the country that was going to overtake the world economically, one of the things that we saw

with Japanese companies was they weren't really innovators, they were good copiers. No offense –

What you're seeing in China, though, is something that's very, very different. These young people are great, great innovators. They're great innovators and so, again, it's almost like the issue we're talking about right now with Smart Power – we have to prepare your young people for a world that is very different than the world that I grew up in. It is very different – just the competitive issues, the whole digital world that we're living in right now, where things can be done remotely from all over the place.

Again, just stepping back to something's that current – that's a longer-term effort and I know the governor and the mayor here and others are focused on it in their own individual communities, but the trade issues also, I think, are very, very important. One of the things that is important are the western values, the U.S. values that we –

Let's face it – intellectual property – stealing that is theft. The values that we have, the rule of law, all the things that go into ensuring that you can prosper – it's important for us to export those around the world by having trade agreements that rationalize those. I think this trade agreement between us and the European Union is incredibly important, because what that will mean is about half of the world's GDP will be operating under the same kinds of standards that we believe to be those kinds of standards that promote the proper kinds of economic growth. If we can link that again with this transpacific partnership, it puts pressure on countries like China – which, by the way, is a relationship we should manage to be a healthy relationship.

I don't think we should begin the process by thinking they are our enemy. That's not right; it's going to be the most important relationship that the United States has over the next 50 years, so we should do everything we can to manage that in a healthy way. By having this transpacific partnership, a trade agreement between us and countries especially in that part of the world, it puts increased pressure on China to conduct itself under those same standards and customs, which are very important to us.

David Brody: I'm curious what your charge to everybody in this room is? In other words, what can individuals themselves do when they leave this room in the months and years ahead, maybe a suggestion from you as to how they can make a difference? It makes me think of the question we have here from Sherry Weiner, I believe, who by the way wants to say thank you for your service and logistical and logical approach to the issues facing our country.

She says it this way: What do you see as the greatest threat to global job growth and the role that the U.S. residents, everyday people, can play today?

Sen. Corker: I don't know that I can speak to the greatest threat, you know, there's short, long, and medium-term threats. Let's face it, right now we're still dealing with the major hangover effect from what happened back in 2008 and we still have the fiscal consolidations that need to occur. One of the great privileges I have is my involvement pretty regularly with the IMF. It's one of those institutions – Christine Lagarde was just in my office before I left, and using that as a tool to make the right things happen –

Look – we've got fiscal consolidations that still need to occur properly in Europe. If you really look at us, and I know our citizens complain about where we are fiscally and they should, and we still haven't done the things to address the longer-term problems, which are going to be disastrous for our country if we don't – but we've also done more than any other country, when you look at western countries, even though it's still not enough.

There's that issue – there's going to be the continued threat of groups that the very effort that you're proposing and pushing and helping make citizens aware of will help over time – but, look, extremism and the insecurities that come from that issue, that ends up threatening oil markets and just the price of energy. As much as we hate to say it, it's important, even we in this hemisphere over the next 10 years could be ourselves independent, not independent, but we within the hemisphere could have enough for our own use – it still doesn't mean that - if there's a disruption and oil goes to \$150 or \$160 a barrel it's going to affect us.

Again, in some ways it affects us more because of the ratio again of population to GDP, so there are a lot of things out there and I don't know that I can speak to it.

To the other point, which I thank her for – I want to say to all of you, you have no idea what a sense of privilege that I feel in the fact that you've allowed me to do what I do. You've allowed me to do it in a way that is pragmatic, hopefully, that is thoughtful, hopefully. You know, when you're a businessperson you wake up every day, as most of you know, with a list of problems that you're trying to solve. That's what you do your entire life – your whole day is spent figuring out how to solve problems.

I've been able to take that to the Senate and somehow I've found myself in the middle of – this is just a blessing; I'm not in any way bragging – I've found myself in the middle of almost every big issue that's happening right now in Washington. Because of the way that you have dealt with me and supported me, I mean support just through moral support, you allow me to conduct myself

in a manner that is able to use pragmatism on a daily basis to solve these problems – so, thank you for that.

David Brody: I just want to also say we've only got another minute or so here, so let me just, if not ask you a question, more of a statement I'm curious to get your reaction to, which has to do with a little bit of what you talked about, which is bipartisanship on Capitol Hill, and especially as it relates to Smart Power. I would think this is an area where Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, to a degree, might be able to find some common ground, if it doesn't get demagogued, so to speak, into that "Aid – international relations aid is just all about military and tanks and all of that – that's where this money is going," ...

Sen. Corker: Yes –

David Brody: ... that the money serves a much broader purpose. Good luck trying to answer that in about 45 seconds.

Sen. Corker: Yeah –

David Brody: That's your experience challenge for today.

Sen. Corker: I'm glad you mentioned bipartisanship, because I looked over at this table and realized I hadn't recognized Jim Cooper, so Jim, it's good to be with you and I'm glad you were mentioned earlier so – Am I still on?

David Brody: You're on.

Sen. Corker: I have always enjoyed working with Jim, and still do, and there's certainly in our delegation a spirit of cooperation that doesn't exist in a lot of places. Look – let me go back to the fiscal issue. We've got to solve that problem. Whenever anybody comes in to talk to me about anything, and we have mayors coming up, talking about roads and buses and you name it, and I say, "Look, guys," – and I did the same thing, by the way, when I was mayor –

The point is that until we solve this fiscal issue, everything – everything we do in this nation is going to be under threat. Candidly, I know this sounds like rhetoric, especially because of the side of the aisle that I'm on, I promise you it's not – it is really hurting us around the world. It makes us look so unimpressive, that we have this issue. We're the greatest nation in the world and we can't figure out a way to come together and solve it. By the way, the right solution is not going to make Jim perfectly happy, nor me perfectly happy, and we know that. Yet, I promise you, it's an issue.

What I would say to all of you is, look – that issue is going to continue to put pressure on aid. The slow growth in our economy, where people feel frustrated about their own lives, here – puts pressure on aid. But – I'm just thankful that this group of people that are so respected – Colin Powell was in my office not long ago – God, I just respect him so much – and the people, the coalition that you have put together here –

My hat is off to you for putting this coalition together, made up of people from former secretaries of state, but also respected generals and people throughout the aid world – the fact that this many people in my wonderful home state of Tennessee and here in Nashville would come out for this kind of event, would just say to all of you – Look, we're going through again a period of time where our confidence in this nation has been shaken. We're beginning to move out of it, and I just would say to all of you, Caterpillar has employees, Dan has members of his congregation, Luke has friends that he sees on a daily basis – let's remember how important what we do with 1% of our budget is to our economic security, to our personal security, and to the security of those young people that so artfully put together this film just a minute ago, and I thank you.

I went over 45 seconds, but thank you so much for this opportunity.

David Brody: Senator Corker, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you so much.

G. Ingram: Senator Corker, David Brody, thank you all very much for a fascinating conversation. We all benefited from that. I am George Ingram and as the founding president and now chair emeritus of this organization, but, most importantly, as a native Tennessean, it's a great pleasure for me to be able to close this program.

As my colleague, Liz Shroyer, always says, "The difference between a good meeting and a great meeting is what happens afterwards," and we have a few things for you all to do afterwards, so that we make this a great meeting. One, you will see on your table an action card. Please sign that and turn it in to a U.S. Global Leadership staff as you leave. Two, share with your colleagues back home and the leaders of your community what you've heard and what you've learned here today.

If you're a veteran, make sure that you sign up to become a Veteran for Smart Power. Visit our website, follow up on Facebook, and over the coming months and years join us – join us in conference calls we originate from Washington, in meetings with policy-makers, and in other education programs that we will be carrying out across Tennessee. You have a very important congressional delegation and you can make a difference in their work.

As we close, I want to make sure that everybody knows who Evan Stewart is. Evan, where are you? Stand up and wave your hand. There we are – right back there. Evan is the regional outreach associate for Tennessee. In a few minutes, while he's still talking to you all, he's going to send you a note that you'll get on your e-mail, asking you to take action from today's meeting. One, send us the names of your friends and colleagues back home who should be part of our effort. Two, send a letter to your senators and representatives and tell them of your support for a smart foreign policy. If you haven't met Evan, make sure you introduce yourself as you leave.

Finally, I want to thank Evan. I want to thank Megan Nathan, who many of you all have met over the last two years that we have organized in Tennessee – and Gray Sasser, who has lent to us his knowledge of Tennessee and his networks in helping us to build our presence here - and again, thank all of you for joining us today, and have a good afternoon. Thank you.

Male: George, thank you, sir.

G. Ingram: Thank you. I have to tell you, my great-grandfather, J.B. Frazier, of Chattanooga –

Male: Yeah –

G. Ingram: Governor ...