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channels. Were you briefed on his findings in February or March of 2002?

Vice President Cheney responds, no, I do not know Joe Wilson. I never met Joe Wilson.

Now, why wouldn’t the Vice President tell the American people just tell the truth and say, yes, I know Joe Wilson. We looked into some issues. I had Libby look at it. Why would he not come out and tell the truth? Instead, what he says is, I do not know Joe Wilson, which we now know to be false. Mr. Libby, assuming that is accurate, according to the indictment, the Vice President is the one that told Mr. Libby about Joe Wilson. Yet 3 months later we have the Vice President of the United States telling America he did not know Joe Wilson.

Now this causes me pause as an old prosecutor. And this is not a criminal matter. From my basis, we should not be wrapped about the axle of criminality but we should insist that Americans be able to trust the administration when it comes to war and peace; and we do not have that level of trust right now.

We need the cooperation of the President of the United States and the Vice President to come clean about what happened here and ask and answer questions that both Congress has, which they have refused to do, that is why we have the other Chamber wrapped up in this issue today, and ask questions that we ask essentially of the President and the Vice President. America deserves that.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Ryan, I believe you have the next hour, sir. We are running out of time. What I am going to do is, if you could, I want to get that Web site so we can click over and have more time so that we can continue to talk about this issue.

I am pleased that the Members who have been following this issue for a very long time on behalf of the American people are here. If you can give the Web site, I would appreciate it, really quick.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. You can get aboard of us at 30somethingdem@mail.house.gov. We are going to get up these facts on the Web site, too, so you can follow them.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we want to thank the Democratic Leader and the Democratic leadership for allowing us to have this hour.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we are going to keep on rolling here. We have so many facts to deal with.

Paraphrasing that we were just engaged in is we know that Karl Rove lied to the American people. We know that Scooter Libby has misrepresented facts and been indicted on five counts: one obstruction of justice, two making false statements, and two committing perjury, lying to Federal agents and lying to the grand jury.

We know that the Vice President of the United States has clearly, early on, withheld information from the American people, that the indictment has said that he knew all about, regarding the Valerie Plame investigation.

[2200]

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to understand that not only did the Vice President and his chief of staff, Mr. Libby, withhold information from the American people; they have made a decision to withhold from the Senate Intelligence Committee key documents. It was reported just this past week in a national magazine, the National Journal, that the Vice President and Mr. Libby overruled advice from some White House political staffers, some White House political staffers and lawyers, and decided to withhold crucial documents from the Senate Intelligence Committee in 2004. The withheld documents included information from Cheney’s office and Libby in particular, that they pushed to be included in Powell’s speech, referring to his presentation before the United Nations.

The new information, and I am reading her testimony today that Cheney and Libby blocked information to the Senate Intelligence Committee further underscores the central role played by the Vice President’s office in trying to blunt criticism that the Bush administration exaggerated intelligence data to make the case to go to war.

They withheld it from the Senate. And because there is no conduct of vigorous oversight either in this Chamber or in the Senate, our democracy is being shrouded in this cloud of secrecy.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) earlier said, What did we do it for? Why? Why? Why. I guess, is going to be the question that people will ask far into the future. If you remember, first it was about the weapons of mass destruction. No weapons of mass destruction. It was about some alleged al Qaeda links, a haven for terrorism. No al Qaeda links. Saddam Hussein, no real connection and vice versa because Saddam Hussein, albeit an evil individual, was a secularist. He is not one of these fundamentalist Islamists. He is just a regional thug. And then finally it was to bring democracy to the region.

I think it is so ironic that we are bringing democracy to Iraq and simultaneously eroding democracy because of the secrecy in Washington, D.C.

What a tragedy.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) said we are eroding basic freedoms here. And if you do not believe that, if you do not believe all of these facts that we are giving to the Speaker and to the American people and to our colleagues through third-party validators, if you weaken the Central Intelligence Agency, all you have done is weaken a country. That is all you have done.

And I think about the leak, through the outing of Joe Wilson’s wife, and outing Brewster-Jennings and Associates, the small Boston company that was a front company for the CIA, you also outed contact that this woman has established over a 20-plus-year career. All of her contacts over 20-some years that maybe she could go back to and elicit and solicit information from them, she cannot any longer.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Maybe somebody can help me, because this is a question that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) posed, but this is directed to this specific case.

What does it tell you about an administration that will not confront a direct challenge as former Ambassador Joe Wilson put forward? Why not just simply say he is wrong and we are confident that he is wrong? But, no, furtively, in the shadows, sneakily calling reporters, we have got something. His beliefs don’t work for the CIA. Whether it was illegal, whether this indictment will result in guilty, whether Karl Rove is indicted, whether others are indicted, the bottom line is what does it say about the sieze factor that exists here in Washington when you do it that way?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you right now, this goes far, once again, beyond politics. This is serious business.

We have Members here who have traveled abroad. I have. I am on the Armed Services Committee. I am on the Homeland Security Committee. If you know how it was to go down to a hotel lobby and go to a restaurant where you are staying there at a hotel, you come back to a hotel after official meetings with the government and you do not understand what people are saying, need it be French, need it be Arabic, need it be Spanish or what have you, you now, just think for a minute. If I were a CIA agent in a foreign land, or someone in a friendly country that works with the United States as it relates to sharing sensitive information, how do they feel right now? How do they feel about America right now? How do they feel about our executive branch right now? And how do they feel about the Congress? This is going to hurt us.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) put it just as clear as it can be. It is weakening a country when it comes down to getting the intelligence to protect all of us here in the United States and our allies. And I think it is important, I think it is important, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) has the head on the nail. Like we say down in Florida, he hit the nail straight on the head just like a good carpenter.
American agent, not because the American agent they feel lacks qualification to get sensitive information. They are scared because someone may out their agent and our agent because of a political campaign. That is what this is all about.

This is not about one day someone woke up and grabbed a doughnut and coffee and said, I think I will out a CIA agent today. I think I will do that because I feel like it. No. It was about saying that intelligence the bad and anyone that rises up and says different we will destroy them. We will destroy him and we will destroy his wife. We will do what we have to do to make sure that we win.

What is happening is that the American people are more in danger under that that philosophy than under what we are supposed to be doing statutorily. And when you have a security clearance, let me tell you, there are a lot of that you know, our intelligence folks but I cannot, because I took an oath and I signed an oath that I will hold secrecy not because I am not fearful of losing my security clearance. I am fearful that someone may lose their life behind enemy lines because I thought I wanted to say something to prove a point.

It does not come to that. This is blood. This is life and death. And we do not want to know what someone could have lost their life behind this. We do not know that yet. We need to get to the bottom of this, and the bottom line is if the majority is not willing to do what they must do, not what they should do, not what they must do, if they are not willing to do it, then that is something the American people have to take into account.

I tell you one thing, the ride to the soccer game and sitting there feeling like you have a sense of security may not be what it is right now if this kind of activity continues.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I just keep asking myself, is there there is there? Is there there is there? Is there there is there? Why are we the only ones that appear upset about this? Why by their deafening silence does it seem as though they are sanctioning the activity that is going on in the White House? Sanctioning the corruption, sanctioning the cronynism and the culture that has been established here?

And it would be one thing, you could say, all right, we are going to compartmentalize, many people compartmentalize. America is safer today than we were prior to 9/11, and we all know and I am sure the American people that are listening to our conversation here tonight appreciate this, that those levees in New Orleans, they could have been sabotaged. They could have been victimized by a terrorist cell. It did not necessarily require a natural disaster.

But here we are. We have spent billions and billions and billions of dollars on homeland security, and where are we? We are nowhere. But the American taxpayers are picking the bill up. As was discussed last week for only one are the American taxpayers spending money here and not effectively, not effectively, this has been an administration that spends the American taxpayers’ dollars.

But, by the way, we are also spending money to rebuild Iraq. But rather than, like every other major donor country in Iraq that loaned the money to the Iraqi government and said we will give
you good terms but pay us back, this White House, in an act of unparalleled excess, in my judgment, made it a give-away program: Welfare for Iraqis, but nothing for Americans. I mean, up is down and down is up. This is the Alice in Wonderland administration that we are dealing with.

Ms. Wasserman Schultz. That is the pattern. Because there is no accountability in Iraq, and just giving away the store, contracts without any accountability.

In Florida, we have been hit by eight hurricanes in 15 months. A year ago, FEMA gave out $31 million in reimbursement and assistance to people who were not even hit by a hurricane in Miami Dade County, one of the counties that I represent. So my answer to my daughter this morning was, honey, even though this is an agency, a department in the government that is supposed to take care of people after a hurricane comes by, many people think they are doing such a poor job that it feels like they are being ripped off by the government, and FEMA after they have come through.

That is what is going on in Florida tonight as we speak.

You still have them make mistakes after mistake, no communication, and yet the leadership and this Congress still refuses to appoint an independent Katrina commission to ensure that we can review the aftermath of that storm, the aftermath of Rita and Wilma and find out why they were not ready to go down.

We still have 4 weeks left of hurricane season. We are in a 15- to 20-year run of expected really tough storms, and I mean we have an administration that we have to count on now until 2008. Do we want to leave these people in peril in charge of every branch of our government? Do the American people have that kind of confidence? Culture of corruption, cronysim, and incompetence.

It is time to make some changes so we can take this country in a new direction and reestablish Americans’ confidence in their government’s ability to do right by them. Up and down the line, they have proven that they do not deserve that confidence. They have not earned it.

Mr. Ryan of Ohio. If maybe they paid a little more attention to actually administering government instead of, A, running it down and, B, trying to use the levers of government to try to hurt their own CIA agents, can you imagine the amount of time that was spent trying to organize this outing of this agent after Joe Wilson came back? Can you imagine how much that consumed the White House? Instead of thinking about better, more efficient and effective ways to administer government, they were spending all that time trying to out Joe Wilson’s wife.

What a misuse of government power. That is a clear abuse of power and the sleaze factor of the whole deal.

I will be happy to yield to my friend.

Mr. Inslee. Mr. Speaker, I suppose we should feel ourselves fortunate that the administration, after the failures in Katrina, did not out some other intelligence agent, one of their critics. So I do not know if they have learned their lesson or not. I should not befacetious about such an important thing.

Karl Rove, Chief of Staff to the President of the United States, is it the most important thing he can do is try to destroy the credibility of Joe Wilson who wrote what turned out to be a true article for the New York Times? Is it the best use of time for the Chief of Staff to take this campaign of the United States to organize this sophisticated campaign to smear Mr. Wilson?

Why was it they were willing to make this such a high-priority issue? I think there is a clear answer to that.

Let me ask a question on this. The administration, after the failures with the mushroom cloud in the United States, what they were focused on to smear Mr. Wilson blew the whistle. They would not have retracted it unless it was wrong, and it was wrong, and they finally retracted it but then they went on to smear Wilson.

I want to make a couple of comments about Joe Wilson, and the reason I do so is he has made clear it is not about Joe Wilson. This issue, he is not the important element here. It is the security of the American people and preventing the deterioration of our security service. That is the important thing.

But this administration you would think they would learn to quit attacking their critics after this has caused all this damage to the administration, but, no, they still have their hounds out there attacking Joe Wilson, still trying to damage his credibility and say he is the lowest form of life on the planet.

I want to say two things about this guy, and I got to know him a little bit when he spoke in Seattle about the Iraq situation.

During the first Iraq War, he was our last foreign service agent out of Baghdad. The very last representative of the United States who left Iraq was Joe Wilson. I tell you two little stories about him, what kind of guy he is.

I ran into a Foreign Service worker by accident on a bus heading to an airplane about 3 months ago who told me that, in the weeks leading up to the first Persian Gulf War, she had a family who came and had some children who were in possession of a stepfather in Mosul. She called Joe Wilson and said, can you help me make sure these kids are okay? She said, I know I am asking you a lot because right now the thing they have going on is the most dangerous thing they can have going on. There is chaos on the roads. Security forces were already in Iraq. Joe Wilson personally made sure that kid was okay at risk to his own life, and he did not tell me that story. I just ran into this Foreign Service worker who told me about it.

The second thing, when Joe Wilson called all the Americans in Baghdad just in the few days before the bombings started and said, I want to try to get you out of the country, Saddam Hussein told Joe Wilson, I will kill anybody who tries to get an American out of here. He did not say so. Obviously, he wanted to maybe hold them hostage. That is a direct statement to you. You better leave those people here. Joe Wilson got those people into a building in Iraq, and it was not widely reported, but put a noose around his neck physically and said, Saddam Hussein, you can come get me because I am taking my people home. He took every single American home. Not a single American was lost to the deprivations to that madman thugs Saddam Hussein.

I have to tell you I have some respect for Joe Wilson. He stood up to Saddam Hussein, and he stood up to Karl Rove, and I think it took some degree of courage to do both. It was a despicable act of Karl Rove, or whoever is responsible for this, to go after him, after he stood up for America against Saddam Hussein, to destroy the career of his wife and put in danger other security agents of this country.

Karl Rove messed with the wrong guy when he took on Joe Wilson, and I think that is something Americans ought to know of.

Mr. Delahunt. I would like to just follow up a point that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Inslee) made about the rationale for the war. They did know, they meaning the cabal that was described by the Chief of Staff to Colin Powell. The cabal knew that they needed the threat of the mushroom cloud.
What is fascinating is that after the release of the initial report of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the chairman of the committee, a Republican, Senator Roberts from Kansas, and Jay Rockefeller, the senior Democrat on the committee, said that they doubted that they would have recommended the President to go to war if senators had been given accurate information regarding Iraq’s programs on the weapons of mass destruction. The direct quote of the Republican chairman was this: “I doubt if the votes would have been there.” That is Senator Roberts. They would not have their war if they had opened up and provided all of the information.

I am sure some of you read Bob Woodward’s book, the reporter for the Washington Post, where he quoted Secretary of State Colin Powell as describing the Vice President as having a war fever. He is out of control. This is what Powell is saying. You talk about third-party agents. It is as if he had a war fever; and here we are today, rampant corruption in Iraq.

We are losing billions of dollar over there, but, as the congresswoman says, the most tragic aspect of this is that we are less safe, and, painfully, we have lost more than 2,000 American men and women.

Mr. Ryan of Ohio. On this march to war, as the drumbeat quickened, it was we are going to destroy anybody in our path that tries to stop us and even if you support a covert agent that has served this country in the intelligence community for years.

Now, earlier, my friend from Florida said. Well, how would these CIA agents feel? So I think it is nice for us to give our opinion, but I think we should actually quote a couple that have been in the news recently. One, former CIA covert agent Jim Marcinkowski on “60 Minutes” the other night said about exposing the Boston company, exposing that that was a CIA front, exposing Brewster-Jennings, could lead foreign intelligence agencies to other spies. There is a possibility that there were other agents that would use that same kind of a cover. So they may have been using Brewster-Jennings just like her.

As you said, this is not just about Joe Wilson’s wife. This is about everybody who came in contact with who she worked with, who she may have been affiliated with in a CIA front company.

And then a former 14-year covert CIA operative. Now, you asked, What do they think? This is what they think. This is what is in the heart of a CIA covert agent right now. This is how they feel.

“Because we’re talking about lives and we’re talking about capabilities, we do our work. We risk our own lives. We risk lives of our agents in order to protect our country. And when something like this happens, it cuts to the very core of what we do. We’re not being undermined by the North Koreans. We’re not being undermined by officials in our own government. That, I find galling.”

Mr. MEEK of Florida. If my colleague can read again and say, “We’re not being undermined by the North Koreans.” Just go through that paragraph one more time.

Mr. Ryan of Ohio. A former 14-year covert CIA operative, in regard to this whole CIA leaking the White House getting involved. That’s what he said: “We’re not being undermined by the North Koreans. We’re not being undermined by officials in our own government.”

Mr. MEEK of Florida. With that, if I may, what is so disturbing about this whole thing, once again, is the fact that like my colleague from Florida, this whole culture idea, and we talked the other night that it takes a while to get a culture. It is an American culture in the making at the time of cultural; I guess, for certain religions to practice a certain meal on a given day. It is within the culture. That means it is preserved. It is something that is accepted.

What has happened here in Washington, D.C. is that there is a culture of corruption and cronyism. When we say a culture of corruption and cronyism, that is not something that remotely happened on some given day 2 years ago. That is an everyday practice, and you would assume that it would stop. You would assume that we would dispose ourselves of that kind of activity. You would assume.

The gentleman from Massachusetts mentioned “their war.” Well, guess what, it is our war. It is our war. They are our men and women that are laying down their lives right now, whether it be part of our armed services or a contractor or foreign service American that is working in the biggest embassy in the world there in Baghdad, in Iraq. Millions upon millions and billions of dollars are being spent.

We talk about a culture of corruption and cronyism. I would say to the gentleman from Washington that the other day we talked about four of the big contractors that received no-bid contracts on the Katrina disaster that took place. They were under investigation for mishandling the taxpayers’ money and falsifying documents by our government for the services that they were supposed to be providing and, in some cases, never provided those services. Then we call them in when Katrina happens and say, Oh sure, here is another contract, no-bid, go out and do the work. I used this example: it is almost like I run into a 7-11 and I am a contractor. I take my gun out and I tell the kid behind the counter to give me the money. And I reach in there and grab $200, and I run down the street. Then some of Washington D.C.’s finest stop me. Police officers, We gotcha. Wait a minute. Just put that money in your pocket and put that gun back in your waistband and go out and rob some more. That’s what’s going on. That’s what corruption is.

That is what we have here. That is what we are encouraging here. So when folks come to the floor on the majority side or have a press conference that last week we heard that that was a given by our colleagues. We have to know how to run the government and they do not, speaking of Democrats, that kind of activity does not speak to it.

When the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the largest department not only in the Federal Government but in the history of the world, takes a former director, Michael Brown, of FEMA, and not only removes him from the position of being over the response at the time of the response to Hurricane Katrina and the recovery, and says. Well, we need to send him back to Washington, we are putting two or three other people over his responsibilities; but better yet, we will keep him on for 60 days so we can learn.

Mr. DELAHUNT. As a consultant.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. As a consultant. At the same rate he was making as a consultant. And I have to tell you, last week we heard what that extended his contract 30 more days so we can learn more. That is cronyism and it is on the breach of corruption.

Mr. DELAHUNT. You are so right.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. And I say to my colleague from Massachusetts that I am driving the point straight home. I am not as good as the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Inslee) in hitting that nail on the head.

Mr. DELAHUNT. You are doing pretty well.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I am not a carpenter.

Mr. DELAHUNT. The gentleman is a journeyman.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. This is far beyond someone saying that we are being political. This is about the taxpayers’ money. This is about the responsibility of the Congress. I said it once and I will say it again: if the majority is not willing to lead, then there are enough individuals that have begun about accountability on behalf of the taxpayers of the United States of America on this side of the aisle that are ready to go.

Not only are they in the locker room and ready to go; they are on the field with their moustaches. I think, now, chin strap buckled, ready to go out and hit somebody when it comes down to standing up on behalf of the taxpayers. So I think it is important that we do this.

And what we are talking about here, because this is not just a discussion about Iraq, this is not just a discussion as relates to outing CIA agents,
The New York Times on October 5, 2003, talked about the instance of treachery. Within the CIA, they said the exposure of Ms. Plame is now considered an even greater instance of treachery, as the gentleman from Ohio outlined. Plame, a specialist in nonconventional weapons who worked overseas, had nonofficial cover and what was what in CIA parlance was called a nok, the most difficult kind of false identity for the agency to create. But apparently she had the most difficult cover to develop. It makes matters that much worse.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And the culture that the gentleman is describing, he is absolutely right. It is not isolated. It is not like you can cor- don off this instance and say it was just Mr. Rice. It was unusual. When you have something that is essentially your culture, like their culture of cor- ruption, it is what defines you. It is what drives you every day. The culture that you are raised in is your belief system. It is your traditions. It defines everything about you.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) talked earlier about the 14-year covert CIA operative who talked about how treacherous it was and how they were being undermined by officials in their own government. Well, I want to go back to what Mr. Melman said in that Chris Matthews interview. Not just what he said previously, but in that same interview we talked about ear- lier. Chris Matthews asked him if he thought that heads should roll, essen- tially, for that conduct. And what he said was: "I do not believe it would be hard for President Bush to ask that person to walk the plank."

I do not see the plank. I have not seen Rove walk off of it. He is there still. He is still the Deputy White House Chief of Staff with the highest security clearance, with the ability to assist the President in making the most important decisions that this country faces.
What a great irony of it that here is a woman who dedicated her professional life to try to suppress the expansion of weapons of mass destruction, and yet she gets attacked and her career destroyed because the administration used bogus information in their State of the Union address to pretend that weapons of mass destruction when the evidence itself showed there was not. And I think her career ought to be respected.

And, by the way, I mentioned this administration was talking to today. We talked about the need for spies for the intelligence agency. I was not talking about this specific situation. But this bottom line is about the security interest of the United States, and both Republicans and Democrats ought to care about that, and both Republicans and Democrats ought to be behind getting to the bottom of this. That has not happened and it ought to.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming the time, I appreciate the gentleman’s comments.

We are kind of wrapping things up here, and we have got some late-breaking news here that I think we want to share with the American people that just recently we got some information on.

Mr. DELAHUNT. This just came in.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And this kind of feeds into every single thing. This is always happening because we are paying so little attention to what the administration and government should be.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, let me just pick up on a point that I think all three of my colleagues made. And the gentleman from Washington (Mr. ISSLEBEE) and I, with our colleagues in Iraq Watch, Mr. Hoeffel and Mr. AMER CROMBIE, always commented on the absolute lack of capacity to acknowledge mistakes, and we all commented and respected that.

If my colleagues remember David Kay, he was designated by this President, by President Bush, in the aftermath of the so-called major failures of combat in Iraq, to go find the weapons of mass destruction. He was an advocate for the war. He believed in the premise of weapons of mass destruction. He listened to that cabal that put out that information. And he came back and testified before that Senate committee. He said, he said this ring so true now: we were all wrong. We were all wrong.

And you know what? If the President had made a statement similar to that, as all of my colleagues here have said in different ways, it would have been applauded and we would have respected it. But they do not want to share information.

For example, this information, a Pentagon official in Washington confirmed Tuesday that al-Farouq, a top Qaeda operative, escaped from a U.S. detention facility in Bagram, Afghan-istan on July 10, months ago; and we are not informed. Some enterprising reporter presumably discovered this information; and here we are; five Mem- bers of Congress and I am sure our colleagues on the other side and members of the other branch on both sides of the aisle, unaware of this information. Why? Because it was an embarrassment. We do not want to admit that is what we are saying. We acknowledge our imperfections. But the bottom line is that it is so tragic that we cannot come together, all of us, and make America better, go back to those gen-uine values that are the foundation for democracy of openness and transparency and accountability and the courage to stand up and say simply, I made a mistake.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we have a culture in Washington. Mr. DELAHUNT. The gentleman is right. You have all hit it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. What we want for kids, for young people, it is not that we do not want them ever to make a mistake; it is the truth that when they do make a mistake, they learn and they overcome and they become better. Every one of us in our own lives looks back on mistakes we have made and we say it was painful, it was hard, today I am better because of that mistake. And to have the leaders of the country send a message out to the kids across the country, one, that it is okay to lie, that it is okay to withhold information that is embarrassing, that you are never able to make a mistake, that is bad for our kids. It is bad for our country. It is bad for our institution. It erodes the basic tenets of our democracy that a lot of people made a lot of great sacrifices, sometimes their lives, to uphold this concept that we have.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, the most troubling aspect of what he just said is the truth that when one believes they made a mistake, they learn and they overcome and they become better. Every one of us in our own lives looks back on mistakes we have made and we say it was painful, it was hard, today I am better because of that mistake. And to have the leaders of the country send a message out to the kids across the country, one, that it is okay to lie, that it is okay to withhold information that is embarrassing, that you are never able to make a mistake, that is bad for our kids. It is bad for our country. It is bad for our institution. It erodes the basic tenets of our democracy that a lot of people made a lot of great sacrifices, sometimes their lives, to uphold this concept that we have.

So I will leave it with that. There is nothing more that I can add to that; but the reality for so many Americans, for so many parents and wives and mothers and fathers that were handed a freshly folded, crisp American flag on behalf of their loved one and family member who lay down their lives for this country, it is difficult to keep up with what was said in the first place. If it was not a problem because it is enshrined in one’s memory and in one’s character. So I will leave it with that. There is nothing more that I can add to that; but the reality for so many Americans, for so many parents and wives and mothers and fathers that were handed a freshly folded, crisp American flag on behalf of their loved one and family member who lay down their lives for this country, it is difficult to keep up with what was said in the first place. If it was not a problem because it is enshrined in one’s memory and in one’s character. So I will leave it with that. There is nothing more that I can add to that; but the reality for so many Americans, for so many parents and wives and mothers and fathers that were handed a freshly folded, crisp American flag on behalf of their loved one and family member who lay down their lives for this country, it is difficult to keep up with what was said in the first place. If it was not a problem because it is enshrined in one’s memory and in one’s character.

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November 1, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H9471

experience, just reading cases like this, if one really wants to get a prosecutor upset, as my two friends here probably know much better than I, start lying to him. And I think the end is not yet in sight, and it is going to be very interesting to see how Karl Rove ends up in this whole ordeal. And we know that there have been misleading statements and outright lies to the press and the American people.

So to our friends at home: 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov. They can send us an e-mail, and we will continue to try to organize these facts and let everyone know that the Democratic Party wants to put the country before our own party as we have before.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2005, AT PAGE H9424

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the United States, asking for the concurrence of the House of Representatives and the members of Congress to dispose of the business:

S. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution authorizing the remains of Rosa Parks to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

PLEASE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and through November 10 on account of official business.

Ms. HERSETH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and November 2 on account of the Global Health Conference.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DeFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAUL) to revise and extend

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and November 2 and 3.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today and November 2.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and November 2, 3, and 4.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today and November 2, 3, and 4.

Mr. WESTMORELAND, for 5 minutes, November 2.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. TRANDHAL, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3765. An act to extend through March 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of Defense to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MECK of Florida, Mr. Speaker, I move that the House adjourn at 3 p.m.

The motion was agreed to; according to the time of the House, Wednesday, November 2, 2005, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

H. Res. 1. A resolution authorizing the Speaker to extend through March 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of Defense to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

H. Res. 2. A resolution authorizing the Speaker to extend through March 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of Defense to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

H. Res. 3. A resolution authorizing the Speaker to extend through March 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of Defense to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BUYER: Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 3065. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide adaptive housing assistance to disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member and to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 109–