

foundation of our power is rooted in the freedom of our great people to pursue happiness, to innovate and to speak freely. These rights are denied to the people of Iran, and that is why, even with the soaring prices of oil, more than 40 percent of the Iranians are living below the poverty line.

Today in Iran dissent is brutally repressed, and terror is the regime's only instrument for domestic or foreign policy. This tyrant accuses the free world that they are denying the people of Iran their rights to nuclear energy, yet he forgets that the Islamic regime is denying the great people of Iran their God-given rights to self-respect and human dignity. He spoke of universal justice, yet he denies the Holocaust, and has threatened to wipe Israel off the map.

This regime wrongfully portrays the war on terror as a war of civilizations, yet uses every opportunity to export its brutal ideology, violently, to the other nations. We are not at war with any religion or civilization. We are at war with terrorism and terrorist interpretations of any religion. We need to protect the civilized world from the threat of Islamic fascism.

DANCING AROUND SERIOUS ISSUES AND AVOIDING OUR CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have elevated to an art form here in Congress dancing around serious issues and avoiding our congressional responsibilities. Torture is a case in point, not extreme interrogation, but let's call it what it is: torture.

At the same time the President was asking Congress to rubber-stamp his policies of torture, the military was saying that torture does not give good information, and they were against it. Torture puts our troops at risk in giving our enemies the green light to torture our people. Torture lowers our image, our moral standing around the world.

In yesterday's headlines across America and across the world, there was the story of the Canadian citizen we kidnapped and we sent to Syria, a country on our terrorist watch list, so he could be tortured. His ordeal did not end for a year. Three years later, he is walking around a free man, never charged and Congress, spineless, has not taken action to stop this barbaric, illegal and immoral practice. It is time for us, as we stumble towards adjournment, to deal with something meaningful, investigate this outrage, and legislate protections.

WHERE IS LAFAYETTE?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, "Let them eat cake" is what Marie Antoinette said to

the starving French people, showing her ignorance of the world around her. Today it can be used to describe France's position on handling terror threats.

France's current Prime Minister said last week: "Against terrorism, what we need is not a war. It is, as France has done for many years, a determined fight based on vigilance at all times and effective cooperation with our partners." In other words, more talk, no action.

What France fails to consider is we tried that. Madrid's trains have been attacked. London's buses and subways have blown up. American embassies were bombed. The USS *Cole* was attacked, and, of course, there was September 11.

This war started years ago. The terrorists struck first across the globe. They declared war on us. They don't want to talk. It is now our duty to win this war, not wave France's new national white flag of surrender. What France and free people need is the spirit of Lafayette in this war on terror, not the current ignorance of Marie Antoinette, who was talking all the way to the guillotine and lost her head because she failed to see the real world around her.

And that's just the way it is.

FEDERAL ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 2006

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today's Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006 has nothing to do with protecting the right to vote and everything to do with restricting it. The real threat to our electoral system is not a contrived conspiracy of noncitizens illegally voting in Federal elections. The true threat is vulnerable electronic voting machines.

It is machines with no paper trail. It is poll workers with inadequate training and resources. It is voter alienation because people have lost faith in the political process. Congress has the ability and the duty to act on real voting reform that addresses the real issues that mar our electoral system, issues researched and documented by countless activists and academics.

There is a reason the article in the Washington Post, "Major problems at Polls Feared," does not once mention concerns about noncitizens voting. It is not a real issue of voting reform. If we want to strengthen democracy, we want to protect the right to vote. We want to reengage Americans in our government.

We need real voting reform now. Throw out electronic voting machines, that Diebold technology election hacker's dream. Go to paper ballots, a paper trail. Make our election process honest again. Enough of stolen elections. Make every vote count, and let every vote be honestly counted.

"BORDER SECURITY FIRST" DOES NOT MEAN "BORDER SECURITY ONLY"

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, a Nation without borders is not a Nation. In recent days, this Congress has taken important first steps to restore operational control of our borders. I was pleased to support the Secure Fence Act of 2006 and additional measures that we will bring to the floor of this Congress this week.

American people want Congress to put border security first, Mr. Speaker. But border security first does not mean border security only. Congress must secure our borders, but the American people know that securing our borders is a necessary but insufficient solution to the crisis of illegal immigration.

After we secure our borders, Congress must also enact a new temporary worker program, without amnesty, and without creating a new Federal bureaucracy, and I believe we will. We must do no less than secure our border, but we must do more to ensure that we solve this domestic crisis in a manner consistent with law and order and the compassionate character of the great American Nation.

REMEMBERING DONNA KAMMRITZ

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, a champion of our community, someone who had waged and won countless battles for people, lost one of her own. Donna Kammitz was a friend. But even more than that, she was someone who stared down adversity with a passion, principle and tenacity. Whether it was her brave fight against cancer, a disease I too have fought, or her impassioned commitment to the rights of working people, Donna never stopped. She always fought. She may not have won every battle, but she never gave in.

Indeed, it was through her volunteer work as director of research for The Organization for the Rights of American Workers, TORAW, that I first met this remarkable woman. A mother of two daughters, Heather and Rachel, Donna's job had just been sent offshore. She lost her health insurance, and she had just been diagnosed with cancer.

At a moment when most people would have thrown in the towel, Donna fought back. She faced her cancer with courage. She drew upon her personal experience with outsourcing to infuse TORAW with the energy and focus we needed to elevate the issue to the national level, and she did so for as long as she could.

Donna helped bring together the entire Connecticut delegation, Republicans and Democrats, to press the government to start confronting the issue

of displaced American workers. She was a proud mother who wanted nothing more than to see her daughters attend college, and she did. Donna understood something elemental: that when you protect workers' rights, you strengthen families, you strengthen communities.

Mr. Speaker, today, let us say thank you to Donna Kammritz for her gifts, for her selfless dedication and for her love of the things that we hold so dear. May her inspiration live on in all of our work.

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UNITY NEEDED ON SECURITY

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, America is at a critical time in moving forward with our efforts in the fight against the global war on terror, and it is time for this House to act.

In the coming days this House will consider legislation to ensure that we can try terrorists in military tribunals and military commissions while protecting America's most vital secrets. That legislation will also give those brave Americans who confront suspected terrorists on the front lines of the war on terror and those who interrogate them with the guidance on what they can do to protect our citizens.

We will also be considering legislation that will officially sanction the NSA's terrorist surveillance program that is critical, absolutely critical, to help keep our Nation safe.

Mr. Speaker, we have not been attacked here at home since the horrific attacks on our Nation of 9/11 in large measure because these programs have worked. I ask the Democrats to put aside their partisan posturing and to join with us in protecting America.

The Democrats must recognize that we are at war against terrorists, and that their political rhetoric and demagoguery in search of votes will not make America more secure. They have an opportunity to join us, and I sincerely hope they do so. The security of our Nation depends on it.

AMERICA DESERVES A NEW DIRECTION ON ENERGY POLICIES

(Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, hardworking Americans are stretched thin. Under the Republican majority, their wages have remained stagnant, while their day-to-day expenses have all increased: health insurance, childcare, tuition, housing, energy bills.

Energy costs have skyrocketed, whether at the pump, at home or in business. Americans are paying more,

and they are looking to Congress for relief. They are asking, demanding, that we work to reduce these costs, reduce dependence on foreign oil and make our Nation more secure. They are looking for a new direction.

Democrats have responded and Democrats have a plan. Democrats will double the production of renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel; Democrats will increase accessibility to renewable fuels at the pumps; and Democrats will aggressively invest in the future to assure their energy needs are not tied to the whims of unfriendly nations in the Middle East. Our plan will reduce costs for American consumers, and it will make this Nation safer. It is smart, and it is common sense.

What have the Republicans done? They have given away billions to the oil industry. America deserves a 21st century solution to energy needs, not oil industry handouts.

Mr. Speaker, America deserves a new direction.

THE REAL GUANTANAMO BAY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, listening to critics talk about the treatment of terrorist detainees at Guantanamo Bay, one may believe these trained murderers are not properly treated.

I have visited Gitmo twice and can attest that their living conditions are to the highest standards of a first-class American detention facility. In fact, more money is spent on food for the detainees than on the U.S. troops there. Instead of deprivation, the terrorists have gained weight on the nutritious diet.

Detainees have received medical care. In the prison hospital I toured last year, these detainees received 35 teeth cleanings, 91 filled cavities and 174 pairs of glasses.

With legal, strenuous interrogation, the terrorists from the battlefield have revealed bombing cells across the world, they have explained their ability to finance murder, and they have uncovered recruiting efforts of more homicide bombers.

Our troops at Guantanamo deserve praise and credit for protecting American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

RESTORING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FORGOTTEN MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, President Bush and the congressional Republicans are failing America's middle class again. This is nothing new.

Millions of Americans are struggling paycheck to paycheck, and falling deeper in debt.

Under Republican rule, the rich are getting much richer, while the middle class are helpless to stop the decline in their purchasing power. America's companies are recording their best profits in over four decades, while wages remain stagnant for the overwhelming majority of middle-class workers. Workers are behind those record corporate profits, but the workers are left behind sharing the gains.

The middle class deserves a pay raise, but Washington Republicans pay no attention to the needs of real Americans. They can't raise the minimum wage. They are too busy working for the rich.

For 5 straight years, Republicans have said to the middle class, You don't count. We have got rising college costs, skyrocketing health care costs, crippling energy costs, but no help from the Republicans.

The Democrats offer a new direction for America. Democrats will restore economic opportunity and economic stability for the forgotten middle class. In November, the middle class is going to get taken care of by the new direction of the Democrats.

THE WHITE FLAG

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the White House recently released a new report detailing our Nation's updated strategy for combating terrorism and winning the war against Islamic extremists. The report underscores the importance of our national security and our fight both in arms and ideas.

This is a battle to preserve freedom and civilization from tyranny and barbarism, from Baghdad to Beirut to Tehran, Islamic extremists importing weapons from rogue regimes and exporting terrorism around the world.

Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans are committed to spreading our message of hope and liberty in a region torn by violence and extremism, the left is advocating and continuing to advocate a policy of cut and run. The central difference between Republicans and Democrats is that we want to fight, and they want to wave the white flag.

Mr. Speaker, the last time I checked, white flags aren't bulletproof.

BUSH ECONOMY IS NOT BENEFITING AMERICA'S GREAT MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, for 6 years now, the middle-class families in the United States have been sold out by the leadership here in Washington.