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This week on the front page of no less a publication than the Wall Street Journal, President Bush's top economic adviser, Lawrence Lindsey, estimated that the cost of waging this war in which this Nation is about to embark may rise as high as \$200 billion. That is "billion" with a "B". That is billions that take away the hopes and dreams of so many of us for the opportunities that this country could afford. That is \$200 billion with a "B" that could be available to ensure a life of dignity for many older Americans; and provide economic security, healthcare, prescription drugs, and strengthen Social Security for our baby boomers. That is billion with a "B" that will not be available to assure the educational hopes and opportunities of a generation of young Americans. It is billions with a "B" that will be spent on war in Iraq, instead of being spent to address our many other types of security needs here at home.

The \$200 billion estimate, as high as it is, may be misleadingly low. We do not know whether this includes the prolonged occupation of Iraq and all of the associated costs, which Vice President CHENEY has admitted are an essential part of this war; the rebuilding of Iraq, installing a new regime, wherever that might come from, as well as, of course, the much higher prices all of us can expect to pay as a result of increases in the price of oil.

According to the same Wall Street Journal article, other Administration economists say their main fear is that an Iraq war could lead to a sustained spike in [oil] prices.

This estimate also does not include the cost of the war widening if, for example one of our few allies decides to become involved, and as a result other oil suppliers no longer supply that oil and there is additional regional conflict.

"Whatever the bottom line," the Wall Street Journal reports, "the war's cost would be significant enough to make it harder", much harder, "for the Bush Administration to climb out of the budget deficit hole," which, I would add, grows deeper and deeper.

So I would urge our colleagues to review this resolution very closely, offer their ideas, informed by their constituencies, and seek to work with President Bush to bring us together in favor of effective international arms inspection, instead of leading us into a war that cannot be justified based on present evidence.

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR WAR WITH IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. DOGGETT), to place on the record this evening information important to the American people.

One of the questions I have on this resolution that President Bush has sent up to the Congress, the joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq, is the first question of why now, 7 weeks before an election?

Just about a week ago, the President properly appeared before the United Nations, and he talked about the grave and gathering danger of what was occurring inside Iraq relative to Iraq's development of nuclear weapons and biological and chemical weapons. But the President did not say an imminent danger. In other words, 7 weeks before an election in this country, why does a grave and gathering danger require us to take precipitous action against another nation state? I would ask the President if action is not imminent, why now? Why now are we faced with this resolution, 7 weeks before congressional elections? It is very, very curious timing.

One of the other questions I would ask the President is who is the enemy? Now, we know who caused the carnage over New York and Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon, and we know al Qaeda is a Middle Eastern-based terrorist network, but their base is not Iraq. So I would say, what is the connection between al Qaeda, where our attention should be focused, and Iraq?

I have gone to every single briefing here in the Capitol this week trying to get the evidence from the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, former ambassadors from that region, weapons inspectors that have gone into Iraq in prior years. They have established no connection between al Qaeda and Iraq. So, who is the enemy? Who is the enemy, Mr. President, and why are you trying to pass this resolution at this point?

Our forces are engaged in many places on the globe, certainly keeping order in the Balkans. But now we have the Afghanistan situation facing us with terrible, terrible disruption inside that country, with terrorists coming back, the Taliban, the leftovers, creating difficulties in that region of the world. And I think it is very important to recognize that moving into Iraq will be a significant military undertaking.

Who is the enemy? Who is the enemy? We are not saying that Saddam Hussein and that despotic regime functions in a way that we consider acceptable on the face of the Earth. But what is the justification for now?

Let me mention also, is it just a coincidence that in Iraq, which holds the second largest supply of the world's oil reserves, is there any possibility that in the resolution the President has sent us where he talks about defending the national security interests of the United States and restoring international peace and security in the region, that it might have anything to do with the oil that sits underground in that particular country?

We know that about 2 years ago in October one of our destroyers, the U.S.S. Cole, was suicide-bombed in Yemen Harbor, and we know that we are extended in that part of the world to protect the oil lanes that are supplying this country every day.

I say to myself when I look at the President's plan for energy that he sent up here earlier this year, what a disappointment to me as an American, a 21st-century American, that he has us wed to oil as the future, a diminishing resource.

We should be moving to a carbohydrate future, not a hydrocarbon future in this country. We should be moving toward a hydrogen future, not a petroleum future. We should be moving to a photovoltaic future, to a fuel cell future, not a petroleum future. So both domestic policy and the flawed energy document released and our foreign policy are totally tied together in this wedding of oil and politics that has been the heritage of this country for the last 70 years.

It is time to change. America wants to move on. In fact, if we removed oil as a proxy for our foreign policy, what a different world this would be.

I think it is important to remind the American people that the current recession that we are in, causing significant damage across this country, including in districts like mine, was triggered by rising oil prices. Lots has happened since that occurred; but nonetheless, look at what you spend at the gas pump and watch international events and how they are tied to oil.

I would just say that it is time for America to change. I look forward to future debates on this resolution and the future direction for this country that is domestically independent and at peace in the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ESTABLISHING THE TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Congress of the United States has just received from the White House a proposed draft which would put this Congress on the path of approving a war with Iraq. The text of the resolution is very instructive, because the text of the resolution seems to ignore some basic facts, and facts are important. They are urgent at this moment in our Nation's history.

The first fact we must keep in mind: Iraq had nothing to do with 9-11, yet the text of the administration's resolution implies that Iraq is connected to 9-11.

Second: Iraq has not been connected to al Qaeda, but the text of the administration's resolution implies that somehow Saddam Hussein has something to do with the al Qaeda terrorist network. Even the United States' own intelligence agencies, which have considerable resources, have not been able to establish that.

We also know that Iraq was not connected to the anthrax attacks upon this Nation. Yet the resolution which the administration has presented to this Congress would ask this Congress to wage war against Iraq as a matter of self-defense.

Now, what is self-defense? Self-defense is when someone attacks you, you have a right to defend yourself. On September 11, the year 2001, the United States was attacked. We have a right to defend ourselves. On the vote that came before this Congress on September 14, I joined other Members of Congress in voting for America to defend itself and in voting for America to pursue the terrorists and to bring them to justice; a task, I might add, which is unfinished. Yet that is ignored in this resolution.

This resolution instead will urge the American people to finance to the tune of over \$100 billion a war against a nation which has not waged war against us. For the first time in our country's history, we are going to be asked to approve a resolution to wage a war of aggression, not a war of defense.

This is an important moment in the history of our Republic. All credible intelligence says that Iraq does not have usable weapons of mass destruction. They were destroyed in the Gulf War. Those weapons capabilities, which Iraq got from, guess who, the Bush administration, the first Bush administration, capabilities for biological, chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction, they were all destroyed in the Gulf War. Yet the administration would have the people of this country believe that Iraq still possesses those capabilities.

They do not. We have the ability to tell if anyone in the world is making nuclear weapons. We have technology that can tell if gamma rays are being emitted, which are an essential tell-tale proof of this work of construction of nuclear weapons.

There are 17 nations in the world which either possess, are trying to get,

or actually have nuclear weapons capability. Are we going to begin waging war against some of those nations? Because this resolution brought by the administration to this Congress would somehow enable the administration to pursue war wherever they wanted to in the region.

Think about this, America: Iraq does not have any usable weapons of mass destruction. They do not have the ability to deliver those weapons to the United States. No one can come before this House and say that Iraq can launch a missile, if they had one, from Baghdad and send it here.

We have to establish the truth. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free," it says in the Scriptures. Let the truth guide America in this period. Let the truth create peace. Let the truth steer us away from war and find a path where America can protect the very soul of our Nation.

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#### TRUTH FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Speaker HASTERT, today marked the 1,355th day that you have been Speaker of the House. During that time, in particular, in the past 1 year, while the Republicans have had a majority in the House, my colleagues will recall a year ago, they had a Republican majority in the Senate, and they passed their tax breaks, they passed their budget. They got their spending, they got their taxes. They increased spending by 16 percent and they cut taxes by 8 percent. So in one year, they have now added \$440,605,894,921 to the national debt.

Those of us who have studied American history will be quick to note that from the day that George Washington became President almost until the beginning of World War II, our Nation did not acquire that much debt in well over 150 years. The Republican Congress, in one year, has increased the debt by that much.

One would think that their response to that would be some shame because, after all, all they are doing is sticking our kids with their bills. That is what they did today. They passed a bill to say that some kids can inherit unlimited amounts of money and not pay a penny's worth of tax on it. For those of us who are self-employed as a welder, a logger or a shrimper like some of my friends back home, they pay the employer's share of Social Security, they pay the employee's share of Social Security, so right off the bat they are paying about 18 percent of taxes. Plus they are paying income tax on that. But for the very wealthiest Americans, those who make the biggest campaign contributions, they can now, under the

Republican plan, inherit unlimited amounts of money and not pay a dime on it; not pay a dime. Tell me it is fair to the self-employed person. Tell me it is fair to the lady who is going to clean up this building tonight who is going to pay at least 8 percent taxes just for Social Security and Medicare.

But what is really unfair is that in order to give the Bush kids and the Cheney kids this huge inheritance tax-free, they are sticking my kids, the Taylor kids, they are sticking the Jones kids, they are sticking the Jackson kids and everybody else's kids with the bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is real money, and when America borrows money, it is just like when a citizen back home uses their credit card. As long as you owe it, you have to pay interest on it. I bet not one person watching this realizes that the biggest expense of your Nation is not welfare, it is not food stamps, it is not transportation, it is not taking care of veterans, it is not defense; it is interest payments on the national debt. It is \$1 billion a day. Almost every American can visualize \$1,000. That is a big rent check, a house note and a car note for some people, but we can visualize a thousand bucks.

So what we are spending today on the interest is a thousand times a thousand times a thousand. It is squandered. It does not educate our kids, it does not help the military, it does not help old folks, it does not help kids, it does not help anybody. A third of that goes to Japanese and German lending institutions, the folks that lend us the money. So I am sure our World War II vets are particularly pleased to know that the folks we defeated in World War II now have the ability to crush our economy any time they call in the note.

So, Mr. Speaker, one would think that the prudent thing to do in response to running up that debt was come to this House Floor and say, okay, we have to cut spending, and maybe we ought to take a look at some of those gigantic tax breaks the Republicans gave their big contributors but, instead, no, they want to make them permanent, even though just last week, the head of the Office of Management and Budget, Mitch Daniels, told us that even with this huge increase in the debt, only 10 percent of the tax breaks have kicked in. So we are \$440 billion broker than we were a year ago today. What do we think we are going to be when the big tax breaks really kick in?

Our Nation is now \$6 trillion, that is a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times 6 in debt. Why does it affect every one of you? Because you folks that I cannot talk to in the gallery under House rules, you pay Social Security taxes. You probably do not know that right now there is not a penny in the Social Security trust fund, and that if we could find the so-called Social Security lock box, all we would discover is an IOU for \$1 trillion, 300 billion. That is a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times a thousand.