

she was able to escape her captivity in Mexico and visit the American consulate in Guadalajara. The officials there contacted the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and, through them, reached Dana's mother Wanda. Wanda returned home a few days later with her two children. The apparent kidnapper Hector Frausto, a Mexican construction worker, was arrested in North Carolina on March 27. Dana was evidently forcibly kept captive by his family in Mexico for much of that time. She was only able to get away because she had the help of a sympathetic neighbor.

The unasked question is why the obvious suspect's family in Mexico was not investigated for 4 years. Was the unhelpful Mexican legal system being obstructionist yet again?

Then there was the Marti family. Sean, just 24 years old, and his daughter Sage, who was 5 months old, were killed February 27 by a drunk driver, illegal alien, who was driving the wrong way on Highway 84 in Idaho. Natalie Marti was in a coma after the head-on crash and returned slowly to waking consciousness over a period of weeks. With coma victims, full mental functioning and memory can take much longer. She had attended college in Boise where she and Sean managed an apartment complex.

Edgar Vasquez Hernandez, who worked as a house framer, was charged with two counts of vehicular manslaughter and one count of aggravated driving. Court records show Hernandez was intoxicated at the time of the crash. That story is repeated over and over and over again.

Maria Suarez was only 16 and living in Los Angeles when she was sold for \$200 to a 68-year-old man, Anselmo Covarrubias, who presented himself in the neighborhood as a brujo, a magician. He raped and abused her, utilizing brainwashing where he had said he had powers of the devil, as he had done to many Mexican girls. He held them in virtual slavery. Another woman bludgeoned Mr. Covarrubias to death, and Suarez hid the weapon but was not directly involved in the killing. Still, she served 22 years in prison and is slated to be released within a year.

Phoenix police officer Robert Sitek was shot four times during a traffic stop altercation with an illegal alien that became violent.

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He and his partner David Thwing were on routine patrol when a red truck cut off their squad car. When the officers stopped the truck, the driver began shooting. Officer Sitek was in cardiac arrest by the time he reached the hospital and lost a considerable amount of blood.

Shooter Francisco A. Gallardo was a Mexican citizen who had recently completed a 7-year prison term for aggravated assault. He had been deported after his release but had returned to Arizona. He was shot and killed as he tried to escape by Officer Thwing.

David Lazarus, a familiar name to the readers of the San Francisco Chronicle business pages, and the reporter appears occasionally on television news shows like This Week In Northern California on the local PBS affiliate.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time for this evening, and I will return with stories of many, many more people who are victims of our porous borders.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE DISTORTION OF EVIDENCE OF IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 50 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I will not consume the entire 50 minutes.

Many Members of Congress are receiving hundreds of letters each and aggregately tens of thousands of letters questioning this Congress' refusal to get to the bottom of the misinformation campaign on Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of citizens have signed an on-line petition which states that Congress should support an independent commission to investigate the Bush administration's distortion of evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs.

Unfortunately, the leadership in this House, the Republican leadership in this body, has refused to allow serious debate on this misinformation campaign, has refused to appoint an independent commission, has refused even to hold congressional hearings on what did the President tell the American people, were the reasons that he stated to the American people justifiable, were they truthful, and/or were they misleading to the American public and as reasons given for the attack on Iraq.

As I think about it, I look at American history and I think of another time when Members of Congress were not given the opportunity to debate a major national issue that affected national security, that affected the way of life of so many Americans, that affected issues of justice. Think back to more than 150 years ago when John Quincy Adams, a former president who came back to this body after he was President, and in those days, in the 1830s and 1840s, this Congress, with a very conservative leadership, actually passed a rule to prohibit the discussion or the debate of the issue of slavery in the House of Representatives. So in the halls of Congress, slavery, one of the great shames of this country, slavery was not even allowed to be discussed on the floor because of the ruling of the legislative leadership in those days.

Today, Members of Congress have been precluded in any kind of legislative vehicle, any kind of investigation from debating this issue of the administration's distortion of evidence of

Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Perhaps the President did nothing wrong, perhaps he did, but we have not really been able to debate that here.

So what John Quincy Adams did in the 1830s and 1840s was collect letters from his constituents, he called them petitions, and he read those petitions, those letters on the House floor. In other words, he let the people of the United States speak for themselves, using his voice. He was the megaphone to allow them to speak.

Many Members of Congress the last two nights, and we will continue in the nights ahead, are doing the same thing. They are taking many of these letters that we have received, people who have signed a petition saying Congress should support an independent commission to investigate the Bush administration's distortion of evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program, and simply read those letters and allowed people to speak directly. It really is a night, as it was last night and the night before, for the people to take over the People's House, and Members of Congress, who are elected by 630,000 people, as all of us are, simply the mouthpiece for these constituents.

I would just like to share for 5 or 10 minutes, Mr. Speaker, some of these letters.

Jeff Hutchinson from Cincinnati, Ohio, wrote:

As a proud citizen of the United States of America, I am deeply concerned about the recent turn of events involving our Nation's foreign policy and our military invasion of Iraq. I have no doubt that the previous regime in Iraq was like many other contemporary governments, corrupt, violent, inhumane. I am concerned about the credibility of the United States before the international community if it is determined that this Nation enters into war based on uncertain evidence.

That was Mr. Hutchinson of Cincinnati. Those are his words, not mine, as all of these will be the words of constituents.

Thomas Gentry, Sr., Akron, Ohio, in my congressional district, wrote, "A president and his administration must be truthful about dangers in our country. Please help form an independent commission to investigate the cloud hanging over the Bush administration for the apparent lying that took place to justify going to war with Iraq. Thank you."

Celine Riedel, from Avon Lake, Ohio. She writes, "Democrats should not be alone in demanding an open, full-scale investigation into the intelligence that helped plummet us into a preemptive war with Iraq. Republican Members of Congress should also be clamoring for the truth. If the American people were presented with a Gordian knot of deception, then now is the time for that knot to be untied."

Natalie Sydorenko, from Akron, Ohio, wrote, "No one is above the law or investigation. The truth will come

out one way or another," she writes. "Those who discourage uncovering the truth will appear just as deceptive as those hiding it. Please think about it." Natalie Sydorenko, from Akron, Ohio.

From Columbus, Ohio, Jason Bennett writes, "I am appalled at the apparent lack of concern in Congress at the bold deceptions carried out by the administration in its arguments for the war on Iraq. It has been clear for months to anyone paying attention that the claims regarding Iraq's attempts to buy uranium from Niger were completely baseless. I am afraid this is only the most notorious in a litany of half-truths by which we have been led to war on and occupation of Iraq. We owe it to the boys who are dying in Iraq to get the truth behind the President's claims," Mr. Bennett writes.

Mark Duckwall of Yellow Springs, southwest Ohio, writes, "It is apparent the Bush administration creatively expanded the real threat from Iraq. We are now mired in a mess that will take years, billions of dollars, and more American lives to get out of. Please show the world that we hold our leaders accountable and are a peace-loving country," writes Mr. Duckwall.

Mr. Brad Steinmetz of Columbus, in central Ohio, the State capital, writes, "The absence of an independent investigation into the serious questions surrounding the basis for our involvement in Iraq gives the impression that this administration has something to hide. It is as important for President Bush to earn the trust of the American people as it is for America to earn the trust of the people of the world," Mr. Steinmetz writes.

Diane Ciekaway, from Athens, Ohio, the district of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), writes, "I feel the American people should hold their leaders to high standards of accountability. This is what we teach in our universities in our Nation and what I teach my students," she writes. "Whatever the results of the inquiry, it will benefit the American public to understand how information is collected and how it is used to support U.S. policies."

Abbey Steele, from Avon, Ohio, just down the street from where I live in Lorraine. Ms. Steele writes, "Please take President Bush and his administration to task for massive distortion of intelligence. The country was deceived into war in order to advance a hegemonic international agenda that eschews principles of justice for those of 'might makes right.' The fact that Bush now refers to those questioning the evidence cited leading to war as 'revisionists of history,'" and those are the President's words as cited by Ms. Steele, "demonstrates how little this administration credits the American public. We can't let this administration continue to treat the public with such cynicism, either in foreign or domestic politics. Please keep our public officials accountable," Ms. Steele writes.

Paul Lubben, from Berea, Ohio, near Cleveland, writes, "The possibility that

the President took us into a war based on false information must be investigated by an independent group. In my opinion, this is a most serious charge," Mr. Lubben says.

Ken Harlow of Powell, Ohio, in central Ohio, writes, "The weapons of mass destruction evidence presented to justify the war in Iraq needs to be fully disclosed and investigated. How will Americans otherwise be ever able to trust their government," he asks.

From Ravenna, Ohio, Alan Goldstein writes, "As you know, I have written many times on the subject of the illegal wars created by the administration over the past couple of years. Now it seems that the media and the general public are finally paying attention to the seriousness of this situation. Now is the time to join your colleagues and to correct the wrongs that have been allowed to happen."

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Last from Dr. Mary Lou Shaw from Southwest Ohio, "For us to continue to have a democracy, you must fight for the American people to know the truth."

As I stated earlier, that is a sample of the 2,500 letters that constituents from all over Ohio have written to their Members of Congress. I know there were some 6,000 letters from Illinois, some tens of thousands of letters from California, and many more from across the country, people who are concerned, people who are demanding petitioning, asking this Congress to support an independent commission to investigate the Bush administration's distortion of evidence in Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program.

I hope that leaders in this body will listen to those who are petitioning this Congress, will listen to the hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions of voices in this country who want to know if we were deceived into war and want to get to the bottom of this, to restore the trust in the administration, to restore our trust in the President of the United States, and to restore our trust in the United States Congress, and to restore our trust in our government.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 40 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. I sat in my office last night and listened to Member after Member on the other side rail about President Bush and whether or not we could trust him in the Iraqi situation. I have listened to my colleagues tonight. Enough is enough. Mr. Speaker, this is just outrageous.

So what I have done is I have got a whole file here, and I am going to remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about their President for the previous 8 years, and I am going to

cite articles and claims and I am going to cite the justification for the invasion of Yugoslavia as outlined by President Clinton.

Where were these voices, where were these petitions, where were these outcries when President Clinton told us about the Balkans mass deaths to justify NATO's invasion into the Balkans? The Clinton administration claimed that ethnic cleansing had killed hundreds of thousands of people, and I will include the articles from the papers in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Clinton administration was later criticized, and I have newspaper articles here to back it up by the press for grossly exaggerating the number of victims of ethnic cleansing, the mass graves. President Clinton told us we would find 100,000 people that were murdered and that was his justification for using NATO for the only time ever to invade a non-NATO country in order to justify a war against Slobodan Milosevic where U.S. citizens, where U.S. troops, and where innocent Serbs were killed. That is the first example.

And how about when President Clinton, to justify preservation of the outdated ABM treaty and to resist congressional pressure to deploy national missile defense asserted that the U.S. would not face an ICBM threat from rogue states for decades? In fact, in 1995 the Clinton administration took the unprecedented step of releasing a classified national intelligence estimate in an effort to sway public opinion because he had vetoed the defense bill. The notorious NIE-95-19 was widely criticized by experts, including the Clinton administration's own director of the CIA, Jim Woolsey, because he said that the President was exaggerating the facts. Just 3 years later in August of 1998, North Korea exposed the Clinton administration lie when it tested an ICBM missile, the Taepo Dong-1 missile. But the Clinton administration used the CIA to mislead this Congress. His own CIA director, Jim Woolsey, on the public record said so.

Let us talk about the agreed-upon framework. It was the Clinton administration that credited itself with stopping the emergence of a nuclear-armed North Korea when it concluded the agreed-framework with Pyongyang in 1994. Critics pointed out that North Korea had already built one or two atomic bombs and was continuing its nuclear weapons program, cheating on the agreed framework. Among these critics was the North Korea advisory group of this body and we stated in November 1999 that North Korea was developing atomic weapons despite the agreed framework. And what did the administration do? They said it was not happening.

Recently, North Korea exposed the Clinton administration lie when Pyongyang admitted that for the past several years it had been cheating on the agreed framework.

How about the most famous Clinton administration distortion, the grand