

fire him if he told the truth to the American people.

In an e-mail disclosed yesterday in the Wall Street Journal, it was disclosed that this gentleman got an e-mail that said essentially, if you tell Congress or the American people the truth, quote, "The consequences for insubordination are extremely severe," closed quote. We know what that means.

This administration told the person he would be fired if he told the truth to the American people. Well, we disagree with Jack Nicholson: We can handle the truth, and we deserve it.

IRAQ

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, a year ago our troops went into Iraq, removed Saddam Hussein from power, and the world is a safer place with him gone. Hussein was a homicidal tyrant who disregarded international law, basic human rights, and invaded his neighbors at will. He supported Palestinian terrorists and suicide bombers. He used chemical weapons of mass destruction against Iran and his own people. He killed thousands and thousands.

Hussein reigned over the people of Iraq in terror and he terrorized the region. Human rights organizations report that women told them that rape was routinely used by Iraqi officials as a means of torture and intimidation. Electric shock, pulling out fingernails, dripping acid on victims' skin, gouging out eyes, were torture methods used by Saddam's regime.

Iraq has come a long way since then. And if we stay the course, we can build a future for Iraq free of this kind of terror and deal a deathblow to the terrorists who rely on murder and coercion and death to advance the terrible agenda by building a free democratic Iraq.

THE RISING COST OF OIL

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, oil hit a new high yesterday. Prices over 2 bucks a gallon in places in the western United States; \$30 billion will be extorted from American consumers this year because OPEC is fixing prices and driving up the cost.

Now, what is the response of the oil men at the Bush White House? A collective yawn and silence from the Bush administration. I guess their buddies in the oil industry are doing pretty well because they are adding on a little margin to these increases in prices.

Now OPEC is violating the rules of the World Trade Organization. We have an administration that is a big fan of the World Trade Organization and rules-based trade. Will they file a com-

plaint on behalf of American consumers because OPEC is breaking the rules? They have told me they will not do that.

They are going to unilaterally disarm Americans in face of this attack against our economy by OPEC because some of their buddies in the oil industry are adding a little margin on and doing okay.

IRAQ

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago the Iraqi people lived under the rule of a man who massacred and tortured his own people by the hundreds of thousands, who supported terrorists groups, and who was a human weapon of mass destruction.

Today 25 million Iraqis have been liberated and an example has been made of Saddam Hussein. Today America is a safer place. Today the world is a safer place because of the actions of our military.

Since September 11, thousands of Guard and reservists have been activated to fight the war on terror and 40 percent of the current force in Iraq is composed of these soldiers. And despite what some critics continue to say, Guard and Reserve service is just as honorable as regular military service. They have left their families and their jobs to serve their Nation. They too have seen the horrors of Saddam Hussein's regime and the gratitude of the Iraqi people as they work hand in hand to rebuild their country.

Today I thank all who serve. I give a special nod to our guardsmen, for when I see them, I do not see half a soldier, but I see twice a patriot.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MEDICARE BILL

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, we now learn that the efforts to provide a prescription drug benefit to the seniors of this Nation, which they so desperately need, that legislative process has now become a scandal.

We learned in the papers this morning that administration officials were threatened to be fired if they told the Congress the true cost of that legislation. We learned that the Medicare administrator was negotiating to set up a consulting business with the very people who would benefit from this legislation.

We learned that the legislative chairman of the committee was negotiating with the pharmaceutical industry for a contract to a job after leaving Congress. We learned in the New York Times that there is an inquiry now about the offering of a bribe to a Re-

publican Member of Congress to support that legislation.

No wonder the senior citizens do not like this bill. It was never about them. It was only about the special interest and special money and campaign contributions and employment contracts for the Republican administrators and the Republican Members of the House.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today this House should recognize that just 1 year ago the campaign started in Iraq to liberate the Iraqi people. A significant part of the war on terrorism, military victory in Iraq, and the capture of Saddam Hussein have helped move the world closer to safety.

Make no mistake about it, the decision to go into Iraq was not taken lightly. And the price of freedom is costly, but we must endure. We must recognize and relate the victories that have been achieved.

Unfortunately, we cannot count on our own news outlets to be objective and complete in this, because just last week, Mr. Speaker, a momentous event occurred that has yet to receive sufficient mention in the press. And this, of course, was the signing of the interim Iraqi Constitution by the 25 signatories.

The press scarcely reported what will likely be the outcome of this constitution and how this will shape the world events for the rest of this century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate our President on his leadership for getting this done. I want to congratulate Ambassador Bremer.

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I want to congratulate our soldiers and our Reservists who dedicate themselves to ensuring as much safety as possible for the people of Iraq. As we focus on the future, we must understand that sacrifices have to be made for democracy and freedom to flourish for generations to come.

CONSEQUENCES FOR TELLING TRUTH ABOUT MEDICARE BILL EXTREMELY SEVERE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the consequences for insubordination are extremely severe. That was the warning that the Medicare actuary Richard Foster received from his superiors for trying to tell the truth about the real costs of the Medicare bill. The penalties for misleading the American people are extremely severe as well.

Today, we learned that some in the Republican leadership knew all along the real cost of the prescription drug

bill and yet continued to hide that information from their colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Let me again quote from the Wall Street Journal's lead editorial yesterday: "What's a mere \$140 billion among friends?"

This is a case not only of politics trumpeting policy but of politics trumpeting principle. Some think that there are consequences for insubordination, but all of us know that the consequences of deception are extremely severe as well.

UNCOVERING SADDAM HUSSEIN'S LEGACY OF TERROR

(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, in cooperation with the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the Committee on Armed Services chairman, I recently sent every Member of the House a copy of "Iraq's Legacy of Terror: Mass Graves," a report that highlights the worst human rights atrocity of Saddam Hussein's regime. Hundreds of thousands of murdered Iraqis, including women holding their children with bullet holes, lie in at least 270 mass grave sites around the country.

Saddam's mass graves represent a crime against humanity surpassed in scope only by the World War II Nazi Holocaust, Pol Pot's Cambodian communist killing fields in the 1970s, and the Rwandan genocide in 1994. Thanks to the leadership of President Bush and the valor of the American military, along with our international allies, Iraqis no longer live in fear of Saddam's brutal regime. Today, the Coalition Provisional Authority is working with thousands of Iraqi families to identify and rebury their loved ones.

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

WOUNDED CREDIBILITY

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, the credibility of this administration abroad has been wounded severely because of the misleading representations about the reasons we went into that country; and no matter how we try to rewrite history, that fact will not go away.

The administration's credibility at home has been shot. It is failing every day with the decreasing job market and the failure to do anything about it.

This House must fight the loss of its credibility with respect, especially what has been going on with the Medicare measure that passed more recently.

We now find out in today's papers and the last week's papers that the ad-

ministration knew well ahead of time that this bill was going to cost substantially more than it represented it was going to cost; and in fact, a member of the administration was threatened with the loss of his job if he told Congress the facts, if he let people know the facts.

We find that the chairman of one of the committees drafting the bill was offered a \$2 million-a-year job by the industry that would benefit by \$139 billion over the course of that bill; and we find that a Republican Member of this House now says that although he is not running, he was told that his son would get money or not get money for his campaign to succeed his father depending on the vote on that bill.

Mr. Speaker, the credibility of this House is endangered. We need an investigation into those circumstances. We cannot afford to let the credibility of this institution go the way of the credibility of the administration.

THE RIGHT PRESCRIPTION FOR BETTER HEALTH

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Medicare prescription drug legislation we passed not long ago that will give more seniors more access to prescription drugs at lower costs. Sadly, a lot of seniors have not gotten the word yet. They have not heard that Medicare will now give seniors choice and control over their prescription drug plans. They have not heard that Medicare will now pay 75 percent of drug costs and 95 percent of catastrophic drug costs. They have not heard that those who choose to enroll in the prescription drug program will receive discount cards this spring entitling them to save up to 25 percent off the cost of their medications. In fact, by 2006, seniors who have elected to sign up for their new prescription benefit will pay a monthly premium of as little as \$35.

On top of that, low-income seniors will receive a \$600 cash subsidy to defray the costs of their medications. Plus, those with incomes below the Federal poverty level will see their drug bills virtually eliminated. Their deductible and monthly premiums will be waived, and their copays will be as little as \$1 per prescription.

Groups like AARP, the American Medical Association, and the American Hospital Association agree, we have given seniors the right prescription to better health.

CONGRESS DEPENDS ON TRUTHFUL INFORMATION

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, last year the Bush administration misled and

systematically lied to the American people and to this Congress about the reasons why it said it was necessary to go into war with Iraq. We know that what they said about weapons of mass destruction, about nuclear weapons, about the biological weapons, we know all this was not true. The only question now is when they knew it was not true.

We now learn, Mr. Speaker, that the Bush administration misled this Congress deliberately and knowingly misled this Congress as to the cost of the Medicare bill by over \$140 billion. We know that they threatened the actuary with being fired if he gave truthful information to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we depend on truthful information to have democracy. Martha Stewart faces jail time for lying to the government. When are we going to hold this administration accountable for lying to the American people and to this institution so that we cannot do our work properly because we are working on false information? When are we going to appoint an independent counsel to begin to demand honesty so that we can represent the American people properly?

OUR PRESIDENT IS WORKING TO DEFEND AND PROTECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when in power, Saddam Hussein posed a grave and great danger to the Iraqi people, the region's stability, and the worldwide community. He ruled by oppression, deception, and fear; and the President's decision to go to war with Iraq was the right one, and the world is safer and better off without Saddam Hussein in power.

For 12 years, Saddam Hussein used tactics of denial, distortion, and delay to prevent the world from enforcing the 1991 cease-fire agreement that ended the Persian Gulf War and numerous other U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding complete disarmament. It proves Saddam Hussein's stance against a peaceful resolve in the region.

Now, while some skeptics continue to suggest that military action in Iraq was wrong, their answer never is that Iraqis or the world would be better off left with him in power.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in support of the President and his decisions, for I know his one overriding responsibility is to protect and defend the American people, and our President is working to do just that.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

(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, we in the Congress have been