

abuse that permeates every corner of the Federal bureaucracy.

I hope that soon the House of Representatives will be able to vote on a conference report for the fiscal year 2005 budget. Now, we have historically a large deficit in this Nation; and at this time, many of my Democrat colleagues suggest that it is time to yet again raise taxes on American families. Just last week, many voted against marriage penalty tax relief, the very same marriage penalty that would raise taxes on 30 million married couples by \$369 next year.

Many Democrats keep demanding that we roll back the tax relief that is responsible for the unparalleled growth in our economy, the tax relief that is creating jobs; and the tax relief, if we look at the budget, amounts to 1 percent of the \$28.3 trillion, trillion with a T, 10-year spending plan that we approved last year.

So if they are truly concerned about the budget deficit, perhaps they should focus on 99 percent of the challenge, and that is, the spending side of the equation, much of which, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately proves to be waste, fraud and abuse.

We must all realize that the deficit is the symptom. It is spending that is the disease. It is only the fourth time in the history of our Nation the Federal Government is now spending over \$20,000 per household. This figure is up from just 5 years ago of \$16,000 per household, representing the largest increase in the Federal Government in 50 years.

We have a spending problem in Washington, not a taxing problem; and I, for one, say it is not time to raise taxes on the American family as many Democrats seek to do, but it is time to get serious about rooting out the waste, the fraud, the abuse.

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In other words, it is time to take out the trash in Washington. Let me give a few examples of waste in just one government agency. The Interior Department's Inspector General revealed that the Department now manages approximately 31,000 separate Web sites, presenting between 3 and 5 million pages of information with maintenance costs approaching \$220 million a year. Now, AOL-Time Warner, who I believe is the largest Internet service provider in the world, manages in contrast about 50 sites, but the Interior Department manages 31,000 different Web sites. In an agency that employs 70,000, that means the Department of Interior has almost one Web site for every two employees.

Yet Democrats want to raise our taxes that would pay for more of this?

The Inspector General also reported at the Interior Department that we awarded \$44 million in Federal contracts to the CEO of a tribal Indian corporation who stole and laundered a half million dollars in Federal funds.

The Guam Waterworks Authority, which receives Federal grants, incurred

outrageous overtime costs of \$8.6 million over a 3-year period, failed to collect delinquent accounts totaling \$12.6 million, and failed to charge customers for a half million cost of water line extensions, all of this while using money from the Federal taxpayer. Yet Democrats want to raise taxes that will pay for more of this?

In another example, the National Park Service spent \$800,000 on an out-house, and it does not even work. The only thing it flushes is more of the American worker's hard-earned money down the drain. The list goes on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few examples of waste in just one Federal agency. The problem is we have over 10,000 Federal programs spread across 600 different agencies with little accountability to anyone. Republicans are trying to work to root out this waste of the American tax dollars. This should be a bipartisan issue, but many of our Democrat colleagues continue to fight us.

Last year our Committee on the Budget passed out a budget asking for authorizing committees to identify just 1 percent waste, fraud and abuse; just 1 percent. Yet Democrat leaders ridiculed the effort. One termed it a senseless and irresponsible exercise.

Mr. Speaker, I believe most Americans would disagree with that statement. In fact, I believe most would say saving taxpayer money and rooting out waste is common sense and the responsible thing to do with their money. The truth is there are many ways we can save money in Washington without cutting any needed services and without raising taxes on our hard-working American families because when it comes to Federal programs, it is not how much money that Washington spends that counts, it is how Washington spends the money.

CONGRESSIONAL OBLIGATION TO SEEK ANSWERS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today in Iraq, 138,000 American troops are putting their lives on the line. Despite the President's "Mission Accomplished" declaration, more of our brave service men and women died last month since any month since the war in Iraq. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz does not know how much the war costs, or that 764 Americans have died, but that is typical of an administration that refuses to admit its mistakes or explain its policies.

The images of tortured prisoners, broadcast throughout the world, have done irreparable damage to our mission and credibility in the Middle East. Still the majority of the House and the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services said congressional hearings are unnecessary.

Let me quote President Kennedy. "An error does not become a mistake until you refuse to correct it. Without debate, without criticism, no administration and no country can succeed, and no republic can survive."

President Kennedy possessed the kind of leadership that allowed him to acknowledge mistakes and accept responsibility. But now there is a different standard, and today America received this response from House majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), commenting on the possibility of a congressional investigation into the scandal of Iraq and the torture of its prisoners, "A full-fledged investigation, that is like saying we need hearings on every case of police brutality. I do not think they are warranted."

This Congress has an obligation to our constituents, to our country, to ask the how and the why about Iraq and seek answers. While refusing to hold hearings on Iraq, here is a list of what Congress has passed since the Easter break: Named, the John J. Pershing Post Office; named, the Wilkie D. Ferguson Courthouse; named, the Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office; named, the Rhode Island Veterans Post Office; named, the Richard G. Wilson Postal Facility; named, the Paul Simon Federal Building; named, the James V. Hansen Federal Building; named, the Ronald Reagan Federal Building; commended the Garden Club of America; urged the release of Wang Bingzhang; recognized the importance of music education; congratulated the University of Connecticut basketball teams; congratulated the University of Denver men's hockey team; congratulated Kennesaw State University men's basketball team; authorized the use of Capitol grounds for the Soapbox Derby; authorized the use of Capitol grounds for the Police Officers' Memorial; honored Melvin Jones and Lions Clubs; supported the goals of Financial Literacy Month; supported the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act; authorized the Congressional Medal for Math and Science Education; supported Taiwan's entry into WHO; promoted freedom and democracy in Laos; recognized the importance of increasing autism awareness; increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act; and congratulated charter schools, to name a few.

As worthy as this legislation may be and while we passed all of this unanimously, here is what our brave men and women we all love to acknowledge and respect, here is what their headlines said: Insurgents kill 12 Marines in Sunni Triangle; al Qaeda claims responsibility for attacks in Iraq; As multifront uprising continues, U.S. loses control of Najaf, Kufa to Shiite Militia; Marines were Ambushed in Ramadi; Three more Marines killed in Iraq; Two U.S. troops killed; Sanchez declares current troop strength adequate as casualties mount; Fate of American hostage in Iraq still unknown; Apache helicopter reported

down; Nine Americans missing; Thirty-four foreign civilian kidnapped in Iraq; Five soldiers killed; April worst month for U.S. casualties; Pentagon extends tour of 20,000 troops in Iraq; Violence delays reconstruction projects; Ten U.S. soldiers killed across Iraq; U.S. troops in Iraq say Pentagon is failing to keep them equipped; Coast Guard seen as underfunded; General says Humvees are not up to the job in Iraq; Baghdad sniper kills American soldier; Ten U.S. troops killed on Thursday; Treasury agency has more employees tracking Castro than bin Laden; Eleven U.S. soldiers killed in four separate attacks by insurgents.

That is what our troops face and that is what Congress has done. We have an obligation to ask questions about Iraq and seek the answers. The Nation's standing in the world and people's lives are at stake. We have spent \$112 billion to date on the war and reconstruction of Iraq. We owe it to our constituents to ask questions and seek the answers that they are asking and seeking.

And the breaking news this afternoon, the Bush administration is asking for an additional \$25 billion without taking responsibility for what has happened to date.

As President Kennedy once said, to govern is to choose. While Congress has named its Post Offices and used the facilities for the Soapbox Derby here on the Hill, Americans at home have faced these headlines: Dow Chemical plans to cut 3,000 jobs; Winn-Dixie plans to cut 10,000 jobs.

We can handle the Post Office naming and hold hearings into the whys and the hows of Iraq. We owe it to the people we represent. We are here to ask those questions and seek those answers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say regarding the death of Mary McGrory that I just met here a year or so ago. She sized me up and said, you look good, but let us see what you are made of. Well, tonight let us go.

Mr. Speaker, last week the House voted unanimously to allow military reservists and National Guardsmen to make penalty-free withdrawals from their retirement accounts when they are called up for an extended period of active duty. Penalty-free withdrawals from their very own retirement accounts.

This bill seeks to help the one-third of Reservists who took a pay cut when called to duty in Iraq. Every Member of Congress supported this legislation because everyone supports the brave men and women who selflessly sacrifice their time, their energy, and increasingly their lives on behalf of this country. But we should not be proud of ourselves for unanimously passing this legislation. Instead of patting ourselves on the back for allowing our Reservists to raid their retirement accounts penalty free. We should be doing much more for those who defend this country during times of war.

Last November this Congress passed outrageous legislation to fund the war effort to the tune of \$87 billion. That is on top of the \$78 billion in supplemental funds that was appropriated in March 2003, yet reports show billions of those dollars are being misused, misappropriated and some even stolen in Iraq. On top of that, the Pentagon today is asking for \$25 billion more in a 2005 supplemental package.

There is something drastically wrong when big companies like Halliburton and Bechtel get rich off the war effort, while the only riches paid to the Reservists who left their jobs to serve in the United States military are those that they raid from their own piggy banks.

There has to be a better way, and there is. One that emphasizes brains instead of brawn, one that is consistent with American values.

I have introduced legislation to create a SMART Security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. It treats war as an absolute last resort. It fights terrorism with stronger intelligence and multilateral partnerships. It controls the spread of weapons of mass destruction with a renewed commitment to non-proliferation, and it aggressively invests in the development of impoverished Nations with an emphasis on women's health and women's education.

We need to shift our budget priorities to reflect the true needs of the American people. We must properly support the thousands of soldiers who sacrifice daily to serve and protect our Nation. SMART Security means equipping our troops with the tools essential to their survival, body armor capable of stopping bullets, armor for tanks that will help prevent the destruction of U.S. military convoys, and the necessary water equipment to keep the troops hydrated in the desert heat.

None of these things were funded fully, even after Congress approved \$155

billion in supplemental spending last year.

SMART security means creating a permanent post-conflict unit that provides the first layer of reconstruction in countries that have been devastated by war and/or by oppressive dictators like Iraq and Afghanistan. And SMART would mean funding all Army peacekeeping units devoted to studying and preparing for future peacekeeping missions.

The Bush doctrine has been tried, and it has failed. It is time for a new national security strategy. SMART Security defends America by relying on the very best of America. Our commitment to peace, our commitment to freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for multilateral leadership. SMART Security is tough, SMART Security is pragmatic, SMART Security is patriotic. SMART Security is smart, and it will keep America safe.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

CYBERSTALKING

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, America now knows the name of a woman who lives in my congressional district in Seattle. But she did not seek fame and would prefer anonymity.

Her name is Joelle Ligon. I rise to speak about her plight, her courage and the need for this Congress to act. Joelle deserves to live her life without fear, as everybody deserves. Unfortunately, Joelle's life was turned into a nightmare because of cyberstalking.

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Today she is both a victim and an advocate, and she was invited to share her story the other day on "Good Morning America." It was not easy for Joelle, but she knew it was important to warn America about the dangers lurking online. Joelle was 15 when she met and dated an 18-year-old young man in high school. Nothing unusual about that. Eventually Joelle severed