

## HEARINGS ON ABUSE

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the House should hold hearings on the abuses in the Iraqi prisons. The most powerful military machine that the world has ever seen quickly won the hot war in Iraq. It is the occupation of Iraq that is unwinnable. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) is on target with his analysis. The incompetent, improvised occupation of Iraq, guided by the Department of Defense, is unwinnable. Our troops in Iraq have been betrayed by the blundering of this administration and their top command.

An unqualified Secretary Rumsfeld improvising this occupation has thrown untrained soldiers into the role of prison guards. We owe it to our soldiers in the ranks to have a full investigation, to openly let the American people see exactly what happened. Yes, this is an un-American approach, un-American activity, and it probably involves only a few, but that few operate under top command.

Mr. Speaker, let us have a full investigation. The top command must accept responsibility. Hearings will reveal this truth. Let us have hearings as soon as possible.

## STANDING BY OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that with troops in the field, the Democrats are now going out sending a signal this war is unwinnable. With young men in the hospital, wounded, amputees, they are saying this war is unwinnable. With families and Americans mourning the dead, the Democrats are saying this war is unwinnable. We often hear from Democrats, Well, I support the troops, but I am against the war.

Mr. Speaker, I have never understood that. I have the honor of representing the Third Infantry Division and five military installations in my district, and that just does not sell to the soldiers in the field that, well, I support you individually, but what you are doing is wrong and I am against it.

This is not the time for our country to be sending mixed signals abroad that we are a divided country and that some of us want to cut and run. The best thing we can do to honor those who are wounded, to honor those who have lost their lives and their family and to stand beside the nearly 200,000 troops we have in Iraq and Afghanistan is say, You are doing the right thing. This cause is noble and it is winnable. We stand united behind you. Even though it is an election year, America comes first.

## WHO HAS LET OUR TROOPS DOWN?

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman says we do not support our troops. The gentleman says we want to cut and run. The gentleman says we have let our troops down.

I will tell Members who have let our troops down: the administration that misled us into this war and did not tell us the truth, an administration that is incompetent, that does not provide the body armor for our troops, nor the armored cars. We have been told 25 percent of the casualties would have been prevented if this administration had been competent.

I will tell Members who has let our troops down: those who did not instruct prison guards in the Geneva Convention and who led young people, brave young men and women, to the abuse of prisoners and led to our embarrassment worldwide. That is who is letting our troops down: an administration that has no plan for the peace. We have no idea what we are doing there or how to get out. That is who is letting our troops down. That is who is not supporting our troops. I yield the balance of responsibility to this administration.

## U.S. OIL PRODUCTION

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, NPR News this morning had a report about why gas prices are now over \$2 a gallon in some States and headed higher everywhere. The reporter explained that while demand has gone up, as everyone has known it would for many years, capacity has gone way down.

He said due to environmental restrictions, no new refineries have been built in this country for more than 20 years, and the number of refineries in California has decreased from 37 to 13. Also, radical environmentalists have successfully fought and stopped oil production in the frozen tundra of Alaska and most other places where it can be safely and environmentally and economically done in the U.S. Environmental extremists almost always come from wealthy, or at least very upper-income, families; but they are really hurting the poor and the lower income and working people of this country, and even our national security, by shutting down so much oil production and refining here and making us overly dependent on foreign oil that is being sold at rip-off prices.

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## REGARDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask my good friend from Georgia how many of the military families has he engaged. How many has he asked why there is a blackout on allowing America to mourn with them as their loved ones' flagged-draped coffins come home to America. How many administration officials have deigned to go to the funeral and to give to the family some comfort?

I know military families. They want this war to end with dignity, yes; but they want some people to be responsible for the travesty of what is going on. And so I ask in light of the fact that we want to blame the troops because of what happened in the prison, I do not want to blame them. They are young. They are 19, 20, 21. I demand for there to be some heads to roll. And Secretary Rumsfeld is the one that needs to roll along with his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz.

I ask the Speaker of the House to demand an open session here on the floor of the House for Secretary Rumsfeld to come and tell us why he was hiding reports for 2 months, why no one knew about the reports, and why these kinds of heinous and ridiculous acts are going on. We want peace over war, but this administration went to war with untruth. Now it is time for people like Secretary Rumsfeld to wash his hands of the tragedy of this and resign. This is the time that we should start anew.

## MISTREATMENT OF IRAQI PRISONERS

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, the one bipartisan thing that we can all agree on today that we will address in a resolution today is that the conduct which we have all witnessed in pictures spread around the world by a few misguided and perhaps sadistic and criminally accountable young men and women in charge of prisoners of war was wrong. There is no debate on that. There is no debate outside the American military. There is no debate inside the Congress that this was wrong.

But I do believe it is important, Mr. Speaker, for the American people to understand that every soldier is instructed that this is unacceptable. Every officer is trained that this is unacceptable. From my experience both as an enlisted man and as an officer, the military will see that these individuals who were instructed that this was not acceptable and then broke the regulations will be punished. This Congress will oversee that. That is a word that the people of the Arab world need to understand, that the people of Iraq need to understand. Things have changed. This Congress will not tolerate this behavior.

HONORING TOM WOODRUFF AND  
MELISSA MILLER DURING NA-  
TIONAL TEACHERS WEEK

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two of the many outstanding teachers in my home State of Arkansas. Melissa Miller, a sixth grade math and science teacher at Randall G. Lynch Middle School in Farmington, Arkansas, was in Washington this week to accept the National Educator Award from the Milken Family Foundation. She was honored by the foundation for her innovative teaching methods that use real-world applications to make learning relevant and interesting to students.

Then there is Tom Woodruff, who teaches at Rogers High School in Rogers, Arkansas. Tom was recently named as one of five national finalists in the NASDAQ's national teaching awards. The awards recognize teachers for their originality, creativity, and effectiveness in advancing interest in, and understanding of, our economic system.

Mr. Speaker, we are blessed to have such dedicated people teaching our children in the Third District of Arkansas. It seems fitting since the PTA has named this week National Teachers Appreciation Week to take a moment to thank Tom, Melissa, and all the wonderful teachers who are helping to shape the future of our Nation.

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, the American people quite often are seen from time to time from both civilian businesses and the military with some bad actors. We all condemn those. The problem that I have is that too many people focus on just the bad actors and forget about the people that serve us well both in civilian business and in the military. I have served in the military. What irks me is that people that condemn our military are generally the people that have not served themselves. They are generally the people that continually vote against defense, which most of goes to the families to support them coming back. They continually vote against intelligence. And then they have the gall to stand up here and chastise our military. Mr. Speaker, I think that is wrong. I am proud of the men and women that serve in our military. I think if those individuals would speak about their accomplishments more, maybe we would all be better off.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON  
H.R. 2443, COAST GUARD AND  
MARITIME TRANSPORTATION  
ACT OF 2003

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2443) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. FILNER

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. FILNER moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill (H.R. 2443) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, be instructed to insist on the language contained in section 415 of the House bill that requires foreign-flag vessels to have their vessel security plans approved by the United States Coast Guard before entering a port in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) will be recognized for 30 minutes and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The motion that the House has before it is really very simple. It instructs the House conferees on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act to insist on our House provision on section 415. Section 415 simply clarifies that all foreign-flag vessels that may be involved in a security incident in the United States must submit their vessel security plans to the Coast Guard for their review and approval before they enter the United States. It is pretty simple. We are trying to make sure that we do not have a terrorist incident caused by a ship coming to our shores.

We have seen clear evidence that terrorists have the means and capability to use vessels as a weapon. We all know about the attack on the U.S.S. *Cole*. Most recently, insurgents in Iraq blew up their boat filled with explosives when a U.S. boarding team tried to inspect their vessel. Two members of our Navy and one member of the Coast Guard died in that attack.

When this Congress enacted the Maritime Transportation Security Act in November of 2002, foreign vessel owners were clearly required to submit vessel security plans to the United States Coast Guard. They were prohibited

from operating after July 1 of this year if those plans were not approved and if they were not operating in accordance with those plans. But in the month after this MTSA, the Maritime Transportation Security Act, was enacted, the Coast Guard went to London and agreed to amendments to the Safety of Life At Sea Convention to require security standards for all vessels engaged in international trade. These amendments are called the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, or as we refer to them, the ISPS Code.

The Coast Guard never told Congress that they were intending to overturn the new security law by allowing foreign-flag vessels to enter the United States if their security plans were approved not by the Coast Guard but by the government in which the ship is flagged. As many Members know, thousands of ship owners choose to register their ships in so-called "flag of convenience" countries. The ship owners do this to save money because they know that these governments flaunt international law by not enforcing the international maritime conventions to which they are a party.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has learned a great deal about terrorism since 9/11. One thing we have clearly learned is that not every nation in the world is our friend. Each day hundreds of ships enter U.S. ports with dangerous and hazardous cargoes. A weapon of mass destruction, a biological agent could easily be smuggled aboard a vessel in a foreign port. Look at some of the largest registries in the world, like Panama, Malta and Cyprus, and you will find vessels that are often detained by the Coast Guard for violations of international safety laws. Now we expect those same governments to protect U.S. citizens by making sure that their vessels have adequately implemented security plans? Give me a break! I for one am not willing to delegate our security responsibilities to the governments of Panama or Malta or Cyprus.

I raised this issue with the Coast Guard at two separate hearings. The Coast Guard argued that they do not have the resources to approve the security plans for the thousands of foreign-flag vessels that come to our country. I have a simple thing to say, as I said to the commandant: send us a budget request, and we will fight for every nickel you need to review and approve the foreign vessel security plans. The resources will be there if you ask for them. But do not compromise the security of our coastal communities and our whole Nation by placing our security in the hands of these foreign governments.

When Congress wrote the Maritime Transportation Security Act in 2002, we realized that it is up to the United States Government through the United States Coast Guard to protect our citizens. I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to support the motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 2443 to insist on the House provisions requiring all foreign-flag vessels, any one of which may