

PEACE TO KASHMIR

(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, I rise today to draw attention to the issue of Kashmir and an important report that was just released and should arrive at each House office this week. The continued courageous leadership of Prime Minister Vajpayee of India and President Musharraf of Pakistan is vital in moving forward to bring an end to the suffering of the Kashmiri people. I visited the region in January; and the suffering of the people is horrific, all in the midst of a land of great beauty. It is time for this tragic suffering to end.

I would like to recommend this report to my colleagues. The report offers over 60 recommendations for progress in bringing peace to Kashmir, including an end to the use of rape as a weapon of war, promoting education for Kashmiri children and others.

Until the Kashmiri issue is settled, the stability, security, and economic viability of South Asia and the international community are at risk.

AMERICA NEEDS ECONOMICALLY RESPONSIBLE SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask how the Republicans will provide health care to millions of uninsured and unemployed Americans through the majority's Hire Our Workers program. American families are facing over 2 million jobs lost since January 2001, outsourcing of jobs overseas by companies that do not seem to care about hard-working Americans, and a political party that has dropped the ball on education, seniors, and health care.

It is ironic, then, that the acronym of the Republican plan is H-O-W. Tell me, Mr. Speaker, how do they plan to provide affordable health care to 8.5 million uninsured children? How do they plan to explain the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report that one in four Texans have no health insurance? It is high time we ditch these short-term fixes and instead focus on long-term, economically responsible solutions for hard-working Americans.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR OUR TROOPS

(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, I felt it necessary to come down to the floor today and express my appreciation for the service of our Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. More than any other cabinet Secretary, Secretary Rumsfeld

has made himself available to this body and its various committees.

Over the past year, I have traveled twice to Iraq, once in August and once in February. I have talked to the young men and women who are working hard in harsh and dangerous conditions. They have a keen sense of mission. They understand why they are there and what they are set to accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, they deserve no less than the continuing leadership of a visionary and a brilliant tactician such as Secretary Rumsfeld.

STOP SCAPEGOATING ENLISTED PERSONNEL

(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, because we are Americans, I believe that this question should be asked: If another sovereign nation in the name of war held prisoners of war who happened to be Americans, and unfolding before our eyes were the heinous and horrific pictures that we have seen, would it be accepting if the head of that sovereign nation stood before his or her people and said that the ultimate person of responsibility was doing a superb job?

I am saddened by the comments of the administration because Secretary Rumsfeld has violated his duty. He is in dereliction of duty having not informed the Congress or the President when he first heard. He is also in dereliction of his duty because the enlisted man that will be tried, a scapegoat, was a mechanic being used as a military police. That is a decision of Secretary Rumsfeld.

It is time for a clean sweep; and he must go along with the Deputy Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz. The world must understand that we are sorry for the horrific acts and stop scapegoating the enlisted personnel.

AMERICAN TROOPS WORKING TO IMPROVE IRAQ

(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, while we are all appalled and outraged by the actions of a few soldiers, let us not forget there are 135,000 honorable American troops, along with 23,000 courageous coalition partners, working day and night in Iraq to improve the Iraqis' quality of life. These fine men and women in uniform have built and repaired schools, reopened thousands of run-down hospitals and clinics, restored and improved electricity and water supplies, and put a new currency in place.

The positive progress which I saw firsthand last month in Iraq has been astounding, despite daily terrorist at-

tacks that seek to prevent democracy from taking root. The terrorists know that if freedom prevails in Iraq that it will spell the beginning of the end of their quest for tyrannical hold on the Middle East. Yet their desperate attempts will fail, and the American military will continue their noble work to make sure that Iraqis live in a free Iraq to protect American families from future acts of terrorism.

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

FAILURE FROM THE VERY TOP

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, American soldiers are serving with honor, and we stand behind them. We are grateful for their patriotism, courage and sacrifice, and we continue to support them as they finish their dangerous mission. The disgraceful acts in the Iraqi prisons have endangered our troops and made their mission more difficult to accomplish. They have endangered our chance to succeed in Iraq, and they have endangered our national security.

Reports of mistreatment have been available for a year and a half at least, yet the Bush administration failed to take them seriously. These abuses occurred because soldiers were put into situations they were not trained for and for which they did not have proper supervision. This is a failure from the very top, and it is time for the President and Secretary Rumsfeld to stop shifting the blame and take responsibility. Congress must conduct a full and open investigation.

COMMEMORATING TENNESSEE APPAREL CORPORATION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the long-standing commitment of the Tennessee Apparel Corporation to the people of Waynesboro and Tullahoma, Tennessee.

From this company's earliest days in 1901 when it was known as the Sanders Manufacturing Company through its 100-year anniversary and beyond, the Tennessee Apparel Corporation has been at the forefront of supplying our troops with the clothing they need. From dress uniforms to cold-weather gear, Tennessee Apparel has been there for our American fighting men and women. In the last 100 years, they produced nearly 50 million military items. With approximately 480 employees in middle Tennessee, the Tennessee Apparel Corporation provides a tremendous service to our State and our Nation. God's blessing on these fine men and women.