

time to talk about what the vast majority of our troops are doing there? What better time to try to make sense of the sacrifice of the 767 men and women who have died in Iraq?

"We call our tribute, 'What We've Accomplished.'"

Chris Wallace went on to say, "First, ending the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein. Ending the systematic torture and murder of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. Since Saddam was overthrown, investigators have found dozens of mass graves in which more than 300,000 Iraqis were buried.

"Ending the theft of billions of dollars from the Iraqi people," Wallace goes on to say. "Since 1991, Saddam built 48 palaces, at a time when his regime said it did not have the sources to build housing. And an investigation has found Saddam stole more than \$11 billion from the U.N.'s Oil for Food program.

"Ending the threat that weapons of mass destruction will be developed and used. Since the invasion, U.S. inspectors have not found WMD, but during its time in power, Saddam's regime manufactured chemical and biological weapons and, at one point, actively pursued nuclear weapons.

"Second, quality of life. Daily life has improved dramatically for the average Iraqi since the fall of Saddam, but it has come at a cost. These three soldiers were killed last July while they guarded a hospital at Baquba.

"Under the old regime, little money was spent on education and there was no schedule for maintaining school facilities. So far, 2,500 schools have been renovated, with another 800 to be finished soon."

Then the voice of an Iraqi female saying, "They put in electricity for us and a fan for us so we could get some air, and I say thanks to God."

An Iraqi child says, "Before, the school was dirty and not clean and even the bathroom was not good. This year, they made a new bathroom for us and they changed the building and painted it well."

Chris Wallace goes on to say, "What children are learning in school has also changed. Before the war, the government fired teachers for not following the party line. Almost 9 million new math and science textbooks have been printed and distributed. Old books were filled with pro-Saddam propaganda.

"And here are U.S. troops handing out knapsacks full of school supplies in Samarra. This just days after those four American contractors were killed and their bodies mutilated in Fallujah.

"Major progress has also been made in health care. Under Saddam, the Ministry of Health spent \$16 million a year. The current budget is almost \$1 billion. The health care system is now open to all Iraqis, with 30 percent more people using the facilities. Doctors who used to get \$20 a month now earn up to \$180. Modern medication, such as cancer drugs, are now available, something unheard of during Saddam Hussein's years.

"Last Sunday, these five Navy Seabees were killed in the Sunni triangle while on assignment rebuilding schools and medical facilities for the Iraqis.

"Third, human rights. Since the end of Saddam Hussein, a fully functioning legal and judicial system has been developed. More than 600 judges are working in courtrooms across the country. Iraqis charged with crimes now have rights that would have been laughed at under the old regime: the right to remain silent when they're arrested; the right to a fair, speedy and open trial; the right to a defense lawyer at all stages of the process.

"Iraqis now enjoy freedom of speech. Street protests against the United States occupation are now routine in Baghdad, something that in the past would have earned these demonstrators imprisonment or death.

"There is also something approaching freedom of the press. Under Saddam all newspapers were controlled by the government."

Here was a woman that was a reporter for 27 years. She said, "Before, we write as they tell us to write. Now we write what we believe."

Mr. Speaker, I include the rest of the transcript for the RECORD.

WALLACE: Now, 120 papers are being published, some of them critical of the U.S. The coalition has shut down only two papers, which it said were inciting violence.

This is another sign of new freedom: Internet cafes. Before, few people had access to computers, fewer still to the government-monitored Internet. Now people can communicate, get information or sound off in Web blogs.

And here's more technology that was banned under Saddam Hussein: satellite dishes. Now more than one-third of Iraqi households receive news from around the world by way of these dishes.

Finally, the economy and infrastructure. There's a new currency in Iraq. Gone are those ever-present pictures of Saddam in a country that used to have two weak currencies, there is now one stable form of money.

Iraq's most important resource, oil, is showing a strong revival. Production now exceeds pre-war levels, averaging half a million barrels a day more than when Saddam was forced from power.

Still, gasoline shortages have meant that U.S. soldiers often have to guard filling stations to prevent looting. Private First Class Jason Wright from the 101st Airborne Division was killed by a drive-by shooter as he protected Iraqis who were buying gas.

One crucial area that has seen solid improvement is basic utilities. After years of neglect, Iraqis have electricity for only part of the day. By this summer, the average Iraqi will have electricity for 16 hours a day, 40 percent above pre-war levels. Under Saddam, only half of the country had access to clean drinking water. Now extensive renovations of water plants have brought cleaner water to more people, almost 15 million, on a more reliable basis.

Before the war, few areas had proper sewage facilities. One example of what soldiers are doing on the ground is in Mosul, where a neighborhood was swamped with raw sewage for 17 years. The U.S. Army spent \$40,000 to hire local workers, and the problem is fixed.

Improvements in the infrastructure are widespread. Here are some key examples. Baghdad airport now has 43 passenger flights

a day, including regular commercial service to Jordan.

And look at something as simple as phone service. Under Saddam, cell phones were a luxury, reserved only for top party and government officials. Now, more than 340,000 Iraqis have cell phones, and business is booming.

There's one other big difference: When Iraqis make a call now, they say no one is listening in.

IRAQI MALE: I call him now on the phone. Now we can discuss anything. We are not—I am not afraid to say anything.

WALLACE: As we struggled to put all of this together, we were astonished by all that our troops have accomplished. And we'll keep an eye out so we can update you on some of the ways our troops are making life better for so many Iraqis.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, we have seen tremendous improvements. We can see that a great deal has been accomplished. As we have seen suffering that so many have gone through, we are enjoying tremendous success.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2660, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, subject to rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 2660, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004.

The form of the motion is as follows:

#### MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2660 be instructed to insist on reporting an amendment to prohibit the Department of Labor from using funds under the Act to implement any portion of a regulation that would make any employee ineligible for overtime pay who would otherwise qualify for overtime pay under regulations under section 13 of the Fair Labor Standards Act in effect September 3, 2003, except that nothing in the amendment shall affect the increased salary requirements provided in such regulations as specified in section 541 of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as promulgated on April 23, 2004.

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#### GROWING CONCERN ABOUT ALARMING LANGUAGE USED TO DEMEAN THOSE QUESTIONING AMERICAN POLICY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans throughout this country share my growing concern about the alarming language being used to demean anyone raising questions about American policy in Iraq. But we have been there before.

We have endured the excesses and the shame of the Palmer Raids, of McCarthyism, of J. Edgar Hoover, and Nixon's Enemies List. It is a sad, but historical, fact that in these times of national crisis and stress, some resort to challenging not merely the ideas of our fellow citizens, but their character, their integrity, and even their patriotism.

Some would prefer that we ignore such blasphemy, that we treat such exaggerated rhetoric with the indifference it deserves. I respectfully disagree. I believe that we have learned a sad lesson from history of this and other countries that ignoring vicious political slurs encourages further abuse and undermines free speech and open debate.

We have substantial disagreements about the wisdom of our course in Iraq. Those who disagree with our policies include highly decorated veterans, intelligence experts, some of our closest allies and millions of our constituents, a growing number every day.

And yet, when a widely respected Member of the House, an honored veteran who has been a staunch supporter of the defense community through 30 years of congressional service, offered a somber analysis about the misdirection of our Iraqi effort, he was denounced by other Members as conducting "a calculated and a craven political stunt."

Now, the author of that statement has a tendency towards loose language and personal invective, and most people do not take his words too seriously. I do, because he is the majority leader.

He was speaking about our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA.) He called him "craven." The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), craven?

Craven is a strong word. It means gutless. It means spineless. It means cowardly, weak, fearful. It is a word that should never be used by a Member of Congress to describe another, and could never be used to describe the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA).

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The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) joined the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He volunteered to serve in Vietnam, while those who accuse him managed to avoid military service. He is the first combat Vietnam veteran elected to Congress. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserves in 1990 and has been awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal and the USO's Spirit of Hope Award for his many services to the men and women in the military.

To even suggest that his impassioned and difficult statement about the course of the war in Iraq was a "political stunt" is to insult a distinguished veteran and Congressman, and I denounce it in the strongest terms.

But the voices of hysteria did not stop there.

Now we are told that those expressions of concern about the misdirection of the Iraqi campaign demonstrated that "the national Democratic Party declared its surrender on the war on terror." Democrats were accused of giving "aid and comfort to the enemy," according to another Republican Member who never served in combat.

Let every American understand the meaning of these words: It does not matter who you are, if you have worn the uniform of your country, if you have risked your life in combat; to those who use these words on the floor of the House, it does not matter. Challenge the policies of the Bush administration and House Republicans in Iraq, and you are "giving aid comfort to the enemy." You are surrendering to terrorism.

In other words, you are a traitor. That is what these Republican Members would suggest about Members of Congress.

Well, according to the latest poll, 60 percent of the American public think the situation in Iraq is out of control. Have we become a Nation of traitors in the eyes of the Republican leaders of this institution?

Mr. Speaker, this disgraceful, demeaning, and insulting rhetoric has no place in the Congress, it has no place in America, and it should be denounced by every Member of this House, regardless of party and regardless of one's position on Iraq. The day we lose our ability to voice our heartfelt views without having our patriotism demeaned is a dangerous day for democracy.

Some may argue that these are just the voices of an extreme, though powerful few. Some say it is just partisan politics. That is not the case. We have been here before.

Two years ago, the patriotism of Senator Max Cleland was challenged, a man who served in Vietnam and left three of his limbs there; a man who served honorably as the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs and as a United States Senator. Apparently he did not lose enough limbs to prove his patriotism to those who attacked him, those who sought multiple deferments in the same war that cost Max Cleland his limbs. Those attacks cost him an election, too.

This year, the vicious attacks are leveled, as we knew that they would be, against Senator JOHN KERRY, who volunteered in Vietnam while others used their connections and deferments to avoid service. Senator KERRY earned three Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, and a Bronze Star, but now his patriotism is also challenged. Evidently, Senator KERRY's wounds were not deep enough for some of his critics.

And now, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) is the target of this disgraceful, venal slander.

It is time to stop.

Americans deserve, and they want, an honest discussion on the issues, not a vicious assault on the integrity and the patriotism of distinguished men who carry their wounds of war.

#### WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon, like so many Americans and citizens of the world, I watched the news with disgust as they announced the beheading of Pennsylvanian Nick Berg, a young man, 26 years old, who was working in Iraq as a civilian. Somehow, Abu Musab Zarqawi and other al Qaeda decided it was time to show us, once again, their version of justice which, to we Americans, is more of what we call murder.

Repeatedly, the stations talked about this and then cut back and forth to hearings taking place here on Capitol Hill to review the hearings about the Abu Ghraib prison and the terrible behavior of several soldiers there.

I was struck by the idea that while the actions of the soldiers in the prison were reprehensible and that they should face court-martial, I am also wondering where is the outrage about the murder of an American citizen? Where was the outrage also about the four contractors who were killed, their bodies mutilated, drawn and quartered and hung and burned? Where was the outrage about the terrorists living in Iraq and showing us the way that they see the world: innocent citizens who had no trial, because no trial could be held, because they committed no crime.

But it continues to give us a flavor of what we are up against when we note how terrorists view Americans and view Western culture and the world. Whether or not we are in Iraq, whether or not we are in Afghanistan, they will continue to perpetrate their war to kill us; not because they want land, not because they are seeking economic gains, but simply because they feel they are on a mission to kill anyone who is Western, who is from America, who is Christian or Jewish, and they will not stop until they have killed us or we have killed them.

But let us not forget who Abu Musab Zarqawi is. He is not just someone who appeared on television today.

World history tells us that in 1999, Zarqawi planned a terrorist attack for the millennial celebration in Jordan. The Radisson Hotel in Aman and other American, Israeli, and Christian cites were targeted. The plot was discovered before it was carried out, and Zarqawi escaped before he could be indicted.

In 2000, Zarqawi went to Afghanistan where he oversaw a terrorist training