

government-paid contractors in Iraq who may have played a role in the actions at Abu Ghraib prison. We have a crisis on our hands that needs accountability and leadership to fix it.

The first thing President Bush should do is admit they made a mistake at the beginning of this war and apologize to the American people and the international community. This was simply a war of choice, not of necessity. Second, I believe the President needs to fully reach out to the international community to get them involved in the peacekeeping and rebuilding of Iraq and its new leadership so we can quickly bring our troops home. Third, we need to do more to protect our troops, provide them with the equipment they need and proper training and leadership.

Instead, all we have seen has been finger-pointing and denial that anything is wrong, from the systemic prison abuse to the false information on the weapons of mass destruction that was used to declare war in the first place.

I think the American people and our troops deserve better than that. They deserve the truth and, as I said, real leadership to get the job done and bring our men and women safely home.

Some may accuse me or my Democratic colleagues of being unpatriotic and saying that we are using the war as a political tool. My patriotism to this country and the American troops means it is my responsibility to ask the tough questions of the military and of the Bush administration on their actions in general regarding this war. If we do not ask the tough questions, who will?

We need to hold our government officials accountable, and that is going to have to mean more than court-martialing a handful of military police officers. The President needs to fire the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld.

It seems very clear that these are not isolated incidents of abuse by a handful of military soldiers, but actually a systemic pattern of behavior and treatment that I believe was encouraged from the top on down.

We need to get to the bottom of the situation and show the American citizens and, just as important, the international community that such actions will not be tolerated and that these actions are not the values of the America that I know and her people. The abuse and torture that occurred at Abu Ghraib prison has undermined America's credibility and the U.S. effort to bring peace, stability, and freedom to Iraq.

The damage inflicted upon the United States' reputation will take years, if not decades, to repair. Today the Secretary of Defense acknowledged that much, as he was quoted in the Associated Press article today saying that these incidents "sullied the reputation of our country." Yet despite this acknowledgement, he still refuses to take responsibility and to step

down. So I once again call on President Bush to immediately take action to help restore our credibility and he should start by firing the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, just one more thing I would like to discuss before I leave the floor tonight. Twice this week my Republican colleagues had the opportunity to ensure overtime protection for millions of hardworking Americans, including first responders, emergency medical personnel, police and fire agencies and officers. And twice this week they chose to deny workers the overtime they deserve. The other body already did their part and passed legislation to block the new overtime regulations the Bush administration is planning to implement that robs millions of workers of their hard-earned overtime pay. The regulation is antiworker, it is antifamily, and it is bad economic policy.

I hope that before the Memorial Day recess, which will be in the next week or 2, that the House will pass similar legislation to block these proposed cuts in overtime to hardworking Americans throughout this country.

HORSE SLAUGHTER PREVENTION

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, any visitor to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky, upon leaving that park, would have to be impressed with its tranquility, with its beauty, and really with the inspiration of the place. Kentuckians are particularly impressed with the Horse Park because it pays tribute to an animal which has meant so much to our State in the past, which means a lot to our State today, and will mean a great deal to our State tomorrow. As a matter of fact, the economic impact of the horse industry in the State of Kentucky is equal to \$3.4 billion a year and the horse industry provides 52,000 direct and indirect jobs in Kentucky. And, of course, Kentucky is very proud of the fact that they produce 29 percent of all the thoroughbreds born in North America.

Two weeks ago we had the 130th running of the Kentucky Derby in Louisville, Kentucky. It is on the first Saturday of May in each year. Two weeks later, which happens to be this coming Saturday, will be the 129th running of the Preakness over in Maryland, and then soon after that will be the running of the Belmont Stakes up in New York. And that is referred to as the Triple Crown in the racing industry.

I happened to have been at the Kentucky Derby on the first Saturday in May, and there was, of course, great excitement when the chestnut horse Smarty Jones won the Derby and the Chapman family, the owners of that

horse, and the trainer and all of the supporters and even the Governor of Kentucky who is a former Member of this House, Ernie Fletcher, there in the winners circle, and they were all excited and enthusiastic. And I know the winner of the Preakness on this coming Saturday will see the same excitement and enthusiasm and great joy.

But I also want to talk about another side of the horse industry tonight, and I would like to go back to 1986 when another beautiful chestnut horse named Ferdinand won the Derby in 1986. The owners of Ferdinand were Howard Keck and his wife, of California. The trainer was Charlie Whittingham. And the jockey was Bill Shoemaker, a famous jockey that, by the way, this House passed a resolution in his honor less than 2 months ago.

When Ferdinand was retired, he at that time was the fourth-most money winner of all time in the United States. He had over \$3.8 million in earnings. And upon the death of Howard Keck, Ferdinand was sent to Japan. He was purchased by the J.S. Company, was sent to Arrow Stud Farm on the Island of Hokkaido, Japan. And the family of Howard Keck, specifically his daughter-in-law Dessie Keck and her son Brighton and her daughter Charisse, made an effort to bring Ferdinand back. They wanted to locate Ferdinand in Japan and bring him back to their ranch in California. And after a while, after searching and talking to Japanese officials in the Jockey Club of Japan and others, it came to light that Ferdinand, the winner of the 1986 Kentucky Derby, the winner of the 1987 Breeders Cup, Horse of the Year in 1987, had been slaughtered in Japan. Arrow Stud Farm evidently either sold, gave to a horse trader in Japan named Watanabe, and either with their knowledge or without their knowledge, Ferdinand, this spectacular horse, was slaughtered.

That could have been a very sad ending to a story, and it certainly made the press throughout the world. It was covered in practically every newspaper in the world about what happened to Ferdinand. But there has been some good that has come from it, because as a result of the death of Ferdinand, it has come to the attention of the American people that horses are still being slaughtered in the U.S. for human consumption; not human consumption in America but human consumption in Europe, even though horses have never been a part of the food chain in America.

And I go back to that Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky, and there is an inscription there and it says "Civilization was built on the back of a horse." And in the history of our country, pioneers, riding horses, horses pulling wagons of material, pulling stage coaches, pulling covered wagons, horses have been a part of our civilization, in racing, entertaining us, work on ranches, dressage. In all sorts of ways they have been a partner with

man, and they have never been a part of the food chain in America.

And yet today there are two plants in the United States that are still slaughtering horses for human consumption. One of them is owned by a French family in Kaufman, Texas, and the other is owned by a Belgian family outside of Fort Worth, Texas.

It is interesting that probably the biggest horse race in this country is the thoroughbred world championship referred to as the Breeders Cup, and the Breeders Cup will be held in Texas on October 30 of this year. In fact, it is going to be held at Lone Star Park in the heart of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, as I said, on Saturday, October 30.

And I happen to have a letter that was written to members of the Texas Delegation from the founder of the Breeders Cup who happens to live in Kentucky. His name is John Gaines. He is a renowned horse breeder, businessman, community leader, and when we think about people in the thoroughbred industry, there are very few people with greater respect than John Gaines. But in this letter that he wrote to the members of the Texas Delegation he said, "As the founder of the Breeders Cup World Thoroughbred Championship, which will be held at Lone Star Park in the heart of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex on Saturday, October 30, 2004, I am appalled that a Belgian company will be slaughtering horses a few miles from this world-class event.

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Horses are being slaughtered, as I said, in only two places in the United States, and both facilities are in Texas. The Belgian facility is located outside of Fort Worth, and a French company is slaughtering horses in Kaufman, Texas. These two facilities are slaughtering approximately 45,000 horses a year for human consumption in Europe. As you know, horses have never been a part of the food chain in America.

Less than 2 years ago, U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN, while Attorney General of Texas, rendered a legal opinion that it was a criminal offense under section 149.002 of the Texas Agriculture Code for a person to sell horse meat as food for human consumption or to possess horse meat for the purpose of selling it as food for human consumption. So the Attorney General of Texas announced in a legal opinion that it was a violation of criminal law, it was a crime, to slaughter horses in Texas or possess them for slaughter. And yet horses are still being slaughtered in Texas today.

Now, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) have introduced House Resolution 857 in the United States Congress to prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption or to transport horses for the purpose of slaughter for human consumption. This legislation, as of today, although not all cosponsors are re-

flected on the record yet because they have not had time to get their names, but commitments are there; but as of today we have 230 cosponsors of this legislation in the House of Representatives.

Anyone familiar with the House knows that if you get a bill to the floor, it only takes 218 to pass it. So we have enough cosponsors on this bill right now in the House to pass it and prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption. But we have a few problems as well, and before I talk about those, I want to mention that this same legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. It was introduced about 8 days ago, and it already has seven cosponsors on the U.S. Senate side.

The legislation was introduced there by Senator JOHN ENSIGN of Nevada, who happens to be a veterinarian, and Senator MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana.

One would think that since horses have never been a part of the food chain in America, that they have the history with helping to build our civilization, that there would not be any opposition to this bill. That is true, there is not a lot of public opposition to it; but there are a lot of people in the back room, in the dark of night, opposing the bill.

One of the organizations, the leadership, I must say, which is opposing this bill, is the American Quarter Horse Association of Amarillo, Texas. I say leadership of the American Quarter Horse Association because those of us involved in this effort, and, as I said, there are now over 230 Members of the House, have received lots of letters from quarter horse owners around the country who support this legislation. Even the American Quarter Horse Association says, oh, well, we do not support the slaughter of horses, but we are concerned that there is not a place in America to take care of all these horses if we do not slaughter them, and we are so concerned that they will be abused and mistreated and maybe even abandoned that they probably would be better off slaughtered than to let that happen to them.

Well, I can tell you that I do not agree with that argument; and most of the cosponsors of this bill, in fact, I would say all of them, do not agree with that argument. And why do we not agree with it? We do not agree with it because we know there are in excess of 200 entities around America, farms in America, in which rescues are being made of horses, where unwanted horses are being taken in.

Another interesting argument of the American Quarter Horse Association is they say, well, we do not want them abandoned, we do not want them mistreated, so we are opposing this bill because we are afraid they will be abandoned and mistreated. But they also say to us privately, your bill does not regulate these 204 entities out there who are taking these horses in that are unwanted. Yet that same group makes

it very clear that they do not want any government intervention involved in anything that they do.

So I find that argument not particularly strong, because these farms that are out there are raising money privately to take care of these horses so that they do not have to go to slaughter.

So we have over 200 farms out across the country that are taking these horses in, and the Blood Horse Magazine, which is the official magazine of the thoroughbred industry, recently devoted an entire magazine talking about the proliferation of groups who are taking these horses in.

I might also add that each year in America there are about 600,000 horses that die, and those horses are disposed of in a lot of different ways. They do not go to slaughter. They are either euthanized by their owner, they are given to a renderer, or the owner shoots them for whatever reason. But that is the important part of this legislation, H.R. 857; it does not in any way interfere with an individual owner of a horse doing whatever he wants to with that horse. It simply says they cannot be slaughtered.

Now, why are we so emphatic about that? I have already pointed out that horses have never been part of the food chain in America. The only people benefiting from this are a French family and a Belgian family exporting this meat to Europe.

But one thing that is important to understand is that there are so-called self-described "killer buyers" around the country who go to auctions. They will pay a couple of hundred dollars for horses, and then they put them in double-decker trailer trucks, and they ship them all the way to Texas.

The interesting thing about this transportation is that the Department of Agriculture's own regulations state, we know that horses are transported in double-decker trailers, and some of them are going to be killed, some of them are going to be injured, many of them are going to arrive in Texas in very bad condition, because we are going to allow them to be transported up to 28 to 30 hours without food, water or exercise. Any commercial transporter of horses will tell you they should not be moved over 6 or 7 hours without food, water and exercise.

Now, the Department of Agriculture regulations also state that we are allowing them to be moved in double-decker trailers, even though we know that those on the top do not have enough room to stand up completely. But we are going to allow it because individuals have made economic investment in these trailers. So, despite the injury to the horse, we are going to allow it.

Then these same regulations allow stallions to be put with other stallions, to be put with mares, to be put with foals, all in one. And anybody in the horse industry knows that stallions have to always be separated, and they

certainly should not be put with foals, they should not be put with mares, and they most certainly should not be put with other stallions, because they fight.

So we have these horses being purchased by killer buyers, transported up to 30 hours, and many times longer than 30 hours, without food, water or exercise, in cramped trailers, fighting each other, kicking each other, biting each other, killing each other, all the way to Texas. So that is another reason that we want to stop this process.

In addition to that, anyone that has actually seen the slaughter cannot help but be disgusted with the way it is done, because a captive bolt is used, in which the horse's head is really not restrained, and it is administered by untrained or unprofessional people. These horses have to be shot three or four times, frequently.

I do not want to describe the scene, because it would make most people sick to see these animals being jolted, falling down, trying to get up.

So it is an inhumane practice, it is against Texas State law, yet this French family and this Belgian family have filed a lawsuit in Federal Court, and they have got it tied up in court. That is another reason we decided to introduce this legislation is to help Texas enforce its own law.

So we find ourselves with a situation of the Texas legislature saying you cannot slaughter horses in Texas, it is against our agricultural code and it is a crime, and yet it is being done today.

One other group that I would like to point out, at least the political arm of this group, which has expressed its opposition to H.R. 857, is the American Equine Practitioners. Their president is from Lexington, Kentucky, and he is a veterinarian. He has made the statement that using the captive bolt is a humane way to kill a horse.

But we went over to the Senate and we had a meeting with Senator JOHN ENSIGN, who is also a veterinarian. After hearing the debate, Mr. ENSIGN decided he was going to introduce legislation to prohibit the slaughter or transportation of horses to slaughter. So he is supporting H.R. 857.

I might add, we have veterinarians from all over the country, we have veterinarians from all over the country who are writing in in support of this legislation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Except as provided in clause 1(b) of rule XVII, the gentleman will refrain from referencing individual Senators.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I thank the Speaker.

So we have veterinarians from all over the country that are writing in in support of this legislation. We have the owners of quarter horses writing in supporting this legislation, and we have their political arm opposed to it, but they do not like to talk about it publicly.

So in conclusion tonight, I simply would like to make this statement: We are continuing our efforts to obtain cosponsors of this legislation. I am quite confident we are going to eventually attain the number of 260 to 270 cosponsors. We are already at 230, and we have not made that big of an effort yet. We are hoping that when we get up to that number that the committee that has jurisdiction over this bill will allow it out.

But I think it is important that we have this debate because it is the first time that I am aware of that we have had a debate in the United States Congress on whether or not we should allow foreign companies to slaughter our horses to export to Europe for human consumption, in a nonhumane way, I might add.

Now, Matthew Scully is a former literary agent of the National Review and a part-time speech writer for President Bush; and he recently wrote a book entitled "Dominion." In this book, Mr. Scully made some statements that I think all of us would benefit from just thinking about.

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In his book, Mr. Scully affirms and I want to emphasize that word, "affirms," man's dominion over animals. But he also reminds us of our responsibility to animals.

To quote Mr. Scully, "The care of animals bring with it often complicated problems of economics, ecology, and science. But above all, it confronts us with questions of conscience. Many seem to have lost all sense of restraint toward animals, an understanding of natural boundaries, a respect for them as creatures with needs and wants and a place and purpose of their own. Too often, too casually, we assume that our interests always come first, and if it is profitable or if it is expedient, that is all we need to know. But sometimes we are called to treat animals with kindness, not because they have rights, not because they have power, not because they have any claim of equality, but in a sense because they do not have any of those things, because animals stand unequal and powerless before us.

It is true that the welfare of animals is not high on most people's priority list, and it maybe should not be. "But kindness to animals is among the humbler duties of human charity, though for just that reason it is among the more easily neglected. And it is true that there will always be enough injustice and human suffering in the world, and we are reminded of it every day, to make the wrong done to animals seem small and insignificant.

And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, perhaps that is part of the animals' role among us, simply to awaken humility and compassion in human beings. We have the power, we have the rights, and we have dominion over animals. That is precisely why I believe that the bill of the gentleman from New York (Mr.

SWEENEY), H.R. 857, is so important to our country. I look forward to this debate.

In closing, I am reminded of a comment made by my friend Russell Williams, who owns one of the biggest standardbred farms in Pennsylvania. He said, the slaughter of horses in H.R. 857 is not so much about horses, but it is more about us as people.

So I hope that the Members of this body will give some thought to this legislation. It has great momentum. It is moving on the other side of the Capitol in the Senate, and we have every expectation and hope that we can pass it and stop this sad part of our history as it relates to animals.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ISRAEL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of family illness.

Mr. SHADEGG (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending his daughter's graduation from the University of Southern California.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. McDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. ROYCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, May 20.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.