

Instead, let us rely 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.

Let us be smart about our future. SMART security is tough, SMART security is pragmatic and patriotic, and it will keep America safe.

#### WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS REPORT ON USDA WASTE

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today as a member of the Washington Waste Watchers, a Republican working group dedicated to rooting out rampant waste, fraud, abuse and duplication in the Federal bureaucracy.

Despite the major economic recovery that is under way, despite more new jobs and historic rates of homeownership, Democrats keep demanding that we take tax relief away from American families. Take away the tax relief that is responsible for the unparalleled growth in our economy, the tax relief that is creating jobs, the very same tax relief that has actually added revenues to our Federal Treasury. That is right, the Treasury Department reports that revenues are up due to tax relief-generated economic growth.

When it comes to the Federal deficit, Mr. Speaker, our fiscal challenges lie on the spending side, not on the taxing side; and that is where we must focus our attention. And by any measure, spending is out of control in Washington. For only the fourth time in the history of our Nation, the Federal Government is now spending over \$20,000 per family. This is up from just \$16,000 just 5 years ago. This represents the largest expansion of the government in 50 years. Since I have been alive, the Federal budget has grown seven times faster than the family budget.

Clearly we have a spending problem, not a taxing problem. Now is not the time to raise taxes on American families, as so many Democrats seek to do; but it is time to take the trash out in Washington, the waste, the fraud, the abuse, the duplication.

Let me give you just a few typical examples we found recently in just one government department, the Department of Agriculture. The Office of Rural Rental Housing made \$4.4 million in rental subsidy overpayments in just one State simply because they could not verify the income of the recipients.

Can you imagine going to a bank or an automobile dealer and having them just hand out a loan without verifying your income? Do they not typically ask for a pay stub or a tax return? It is only common sense in the rest of America, but apparently not with many Federal bureaucrats. And Demo-

crats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this? \$4.4 million of the people's hard-earned money squandered. That is enough money to fully armor 142 Humvees in Iraq.

Because the Rural Utility Service will not allow water and waste projects to be funded by both government grants and private loan sources, American taxpayers paid for more than \$85 million of unnecessary grants over a 4-year period. This same agency made loans totaling about \$100 million to projects that could have been financed with private credit. Instead, taxpayers, American families, were forced to finance them. This policy does not make any sense, yet Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this? That \$85 million in unnecessary grants could have been used to purchase over 53,000 Kevlar vests for our troops in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, almost everyone believes that we should help provide adequate nutrition for the neediest Americans; but because a food stamp program State agency in the Midwest did not provide oversight over its field offices, and because they had not performed a management review in over 7 years, almost \$2 million in Federal funding was improperly spent on administration of the food stamp program in the year 2000. That money could have bought 720,000 gallons of milk for food stamp recipients in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine starting up a small business and not reviewing your finances for over 7 years? My guess is the business would go bankrupt. Yet Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this?

Mr. Speaker, this is just the tip of the iceberg. The list goes on and on and on, and so does the waste, the fraud, the abuse and duplication. It has been going on for decades.

Republicans are working hard to root out the waste of American tax dollars, but too often our Democrat colleagues keep fighting us every step of the way. Last year, the Committee on the Budget approved a budget asking for authorizing committees to identify just 1 percent, just 1 percent, of waste and fraud and abuse within their budgets. But again the Democrats fought us every step of the way. One of their leaders reviled our efforts, ridiculed it, and said it was "a senseless and irresponsible exercise."

Mr. Speaker, the American people disagree. With the Nation at war and with a large Federal budget deficit, there is no better time than now to root out this senseless waste, fraud and abuse, because when it comes to Federal programs, it is not how much money Washington spends that counts; it is how Washington spends it.

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

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

#### REASONS WHY ADMINISTRATION HAS TO GO

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, I can hardly stop laughing after that last speech. You would think the Republicans were not in charge here. I think he was talking about President Bush and the Republican House and the Republican Senate that is wasteful. They have shoved it out the door to all kinds of things.

Mr. Speaker, I read a quote the other day that astonished and frightened me. I think most Americans feel the same way. Here it is:

"The world should have expected the shocking photographs of Iraqi prisoners being tortured at the Abu Ghraib prison."

That is a pretty strong message, the kind of damning statement about U.S. foreign policy in Iraq that we might expect our enemies to say and even use to recruit. But the words were spoken by the head of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Kahn went even further in her remarks, saying U.S. policy has actually made the world a more dangerous place. "Sacrificing human rights in the name of security at home, turning a blind eye to abuses abroad and using preemptive military force when and where it chooses, have neither increased security nor ensured liberty." And, tragically, this sentiment is likely to get worse. The world now knows that at least three prisoners have died in U.S. custody in Afghanistan. There are other allegations apparently under investigation of beatings and sexual abuse.

As it stands now, we might never know the full extent of U.S. prisoner abuse in Afghanistan, because the top U.S. general says it is classified.

The AP quotes Lieutenant General David Barno as saying anything made public will contain only "some of the key conclusions." Also being kept secret are the "specific techniques used," the commander said. Those are code words for things like beating and hooding and other abuses.

The International Red Cross has been trying to get into other U.S. prison facilities in Iraq besides Abu Ghraib, but the Red Cross has been denied access. What else is yet to be discovered? Why is the military stamping "secret" on its activities in U.S. prisons in Iraq? The AP says evidence of abuse has surfaced in at least three other detention facilities in Iraq. "Secret" is what the administration and its civilians in charge at the Pentagon are saying.

The honor of every decent U.S. soldier is tarnished by prisoner abuse that the administration refuses to account

for. The safety of every decent U.S. soldier is endangered when this administration refuses to find those responsible within its own list of political appointees. It is not sergeants and PFCs at the bottom.

This President has turned worldwide goodwill and unending support after 9/11 into global disgust and worldwide mistrust of America. As long as this President remains in the White House, the United States grows increasingly isolated in the world.

The war on terror will not be won alone. And America will not win when this President's policies lead Amnesty International to say the war on terror is "bankrupt of vision" and concludes, "The U.S. has lost its high moral ground and its ability to lead on peace."

That is the legacy of this administration and the reason that George Bush is going back to Crawford, Texas, on the second of November.

□ 1945

#### WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY). 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. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again as a member of the Washington Waste Watchers.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of Republican efforts, House committees spent a great deal of time last year finding wastes of taxpayer funds in Federal programs. Those efforts, as a matter of fact, highlighted over \$85 billion in potential savings to the taxpayer.

This year, the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman NUSSLE) passed a budget resolution in the Committee on the Budget that goes a long way toward reducing and actually eliminating some of the most outrageous examples of waste, fraud, and abuse. By the way, I have to also applaud President Bush for working on implementing the President's Management Agenda, a performance-based system that seeks to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse. Mr. Speaker, we need to continue to work to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, because there is a lot more work that can be done.

Let us just look at a couple of examples. Let us look at the Environmental Protection Agency, for example, where, again, hard-earned taxpayer dollars are sent to ensure that our environment is protected. Yet a recent EPA Inspector General report found that an environmental advocacy group received nearly \$5 million in educational grants that it used to lobby the EPA between 1998 and 2001, despite the fact that that is illegal, it is illegal to use those funds to lobby.

Another EPA audit found that they awarded a \$700,000 grant without any knowledge of the work that the recipi-

ent was supposed to perform. They did not even know what it was for.

Yet another audit found that for almost half of the grants reviewed, and this is a quote, the EPA did not even attempt to measure the project's outcomes. Yet the Democrats want to raise hard-working Americans' taxes to do more of this.

The Inspector General also found that the EPA awarded a contract to an engineering firm that used some of those funds to host a golf day, but the Democrats want to raise your taxes to do more of this.

As a matter of fact, last year, the Democrats offered alternatives to major legislation that would have added almost \$1 trillion to the deficit.

Let us make this very clear. The Democrat alternatives, all of their budget alternatives massively increased taxes. One of them increased taxes by \$119 billion, the other one by \$165 billion, and the third one by, again, a little bit over \$165 billion in increased taxes on the hard-working Americans to do more of this.

That is the difference, Mr. Speaker. While the Washington Waste Watchers, while the President, while the Republican majority is trying to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, the Democrats are trying to pile on, and they have this love affair with increased taxes.

So, Mr. Speaker, while our friends, the Democrats, continue their love affair and continue to try to raise the taxes of the American people, those of us in the Washington Waste Watchers will continue to work with the President to try to root out that waste, fraud, and abuse and eliminate it as soon as possible.

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

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

#### FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF CONDITIONS AT GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I could not help but notice, as I am sure many of my colleagues who are in the Chamber this evening noticed, the remarks of the gentleman from Washington State just a few minutes ago, talking about what Amnesty International thinks. Well, I want to remind my colleagues that Amnesty International is about as objective as the gentleman from Washington State; and if anybody feels disgust toward this President, it is because of the harping and carping of people like that who really do not care about this country. They want to believe the Saddam Husseins of the world and not the President and

Commander in Chief of this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening primarily to talk about—

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

For what purpose does the gentleman from Washington rise?

Mr. McDERMOTT. The gentleman was talking about me specifically, and I thought we would take his words down and see if they are appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the words.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman withdraws his request.

The gentleman from Georgia may continue.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk a little bit about the situation in Baghdad at that Abu Ghraib prison and the reports of abuse by certain prison guards in one cell block.

A lot of the media, Mr. Speaker, has been suggesting that the reason this occurred was because General Miller had come from Guantanamo Bay where, over 2 years ago, we set up that facility for the enemy combatants that were captured in Afghanistan to detain them and that General Miller went over to Baghdad to Iraq to Abu Ghraib to advise them on how to obtain intelligence, actionable intelligence from the detainees, and because of that advice, this so-called "GTMO-izing" the operation in Iraq, this is what led to the abuse, that these miscreant few in this one cell block were not responsible because they were just simply following orders.

Well, Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to explain to my colleagues the opportunity that I had a week ago Tuesday to go to Guantanamo Bay, along with my colleague from the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from Florida. We were both asked to go by our chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, the honorable gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

So we had an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to go to Guantanamo Bay and see that operation firsthand. And I am proud, as I know and I feel very confident in listening to and talking with my colleague from Florida, that we did not see any abuse in Guantanamo Bay. We did not see any water torture. We did not see any use of dogs. We did not see any prisoner injury or abuse.

Mr. Speaker, what we saw, rather, was a very well-conceived, well-designed operation that included interrogation, yes, the obtaining of actionable intelligence in a humane way and in a very sophisticated way, and yet a detention facility that took into consideration the prayer activities of the detainees from Afghanistan. Indeed, in each and every cell, there was an arrow pointing to Mecca, to the east. There