

this is a failure that jeopardizes the success of our mission to Afghanistan and jeopardizes the very credibility of the Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, we often say that failure is not an option. Alas, in Afghanistan failure is a distinct possibility, and unless allied leaders in the next few weeks demonstrate the political will to deploy the necessary assets in Afghanistan, failure gradually will become a reality.

Two weeks ago, this Member returned from the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Bratislava. Recognizing the gravity of the situation in Afghanistan, the leaders of the 26 national delegations—in an unprecedented action—authorized this Member, as the President of the Assembly, to send a letter to our national leaders, expressing the concern of the Assembly and urging governments to provide the necessary resources for ISAF.

Mr. Speaker, this Member will also raise these concerns with those national leaders in an address to the Istanbul Summit later this month. Likewise, the Bush Administration at Istanbul must press our allies to dig deep and find the extra personnel and resources that are needed to make this mission a success.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SMART SECURITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, no one disagrees that to keep our country secure, we must become independent of foreign fuels, while at the same time we must control the rising energy costs here in our country. Where the disagreement arises is how this should be done.

Today, the House leadership brought up four energy bills in an attempt to look like they are addressing our energy needs. From rehashing a bill that already passed the House not once but twice, that focuses on huge giveaways to big oil and gas companies to a bill that would open up drilling in the arctic refuge, this is nothing more than a sham. None of these bills do anything to promote an energy policy that will keep us secure from terrorism and ensure that our energy needs are met. In fact, opening up the arctic refuge to drilling would increase global oil reserves by only .31 percent. That is right, only 31/100ths of 1 percent. That is less oil than the United States consumes in 6 months.

There has to be a better way, a more intelligent way, a way not rooted in ruthless expediency, but in the values that we hold dear. And there is. I have introduced legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible

Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. One of the components of SMART is a real strategy for energy independence, especially support for the development of renewable energy sources. Nothing threatens national security more than reliance on Middle Eastern oil.

This reliance cannot be met with drilling in the arctic refuge or with giveaways to big oil and gas companies. We must invest in renewable energy and in conservation. We must increase energy efficiency. Only through decreased dependence on oil will we make ourselves more secure.

Along with decreasing our dependence on foreign oil, we must stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Keeping the American people safe must be our highest priority. On that point the President and I agree, but we must avoid equating our security with aggression and military force. Just because one has a hammer, not every problem is a nail. The United States possesses the world's largest hammer in the form of its mighty military, but some situations require a more delicate touch. SMART security calls for aggressive diplomacy, a commitment to nuclear nonproliferation, strong regional security arrangements, and vigorous inspection regimes. The United States must set an example for the rest of the world by renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and the development of new nuclear weapons.

We must maintain our commitment to existing international treaties like the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention. We must support and adequately fund programs like the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which works with the Russian Federation and the states of the former Soviet Union to dismantle nuclear warheads, reduce nuclear stockpiles, and secure nuclear weapons in Russia. And we must replicate these programs in other troubled regions like North Korea and Iran.

Not every country will proactively choose to give up its nuclear program, and we can provide the incentives if we choose. In the long run, negotiating with other countries will keep us much safer than thinking that we can scare them into submission.

The Bush doctrine has been tried. It has failed. It is time for a new national security strategy. SMART security defends America by relying 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. SMART security is tough, it is pragmatic, and it is patriotic. SMART security is smart, and it will keep America safe.

HUMAN EMBRYO STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, many people have probably seen the recent news coverage about Nancy Reagan's hope to see more funding go to human embryo stem cell research in the hopes of finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Indeed, recently Newsweek ran a cover story on this issue.

I am a physician, and I used to care for many patients with Alzheimer's disease, and I know first hand the anguish it causes to lose a loved one or to have a family member with this condition. I have three concerns that I would like to raise about this debate.

First of all, I am concerned that advocates for this embryo stem cell research are unethically playing on the emotions of millions of Americans. Of all the conditions that have been proposed as possibly treatable with stem cells, whether embryonic or adult stem cells, Alzheimer's disease is one of the least likely where stem cells could be useful.

I say this because on autopsy, the brains on Alzheimer's disease patients do not show a pure dropout of neurons. If it was a loss of normal nerve cells, cell therapy might have potential. The fact is the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients typically contain lesions called senile plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. The plaques, which accumulate on the outside of neurons, consist mainly of deposits of a protein called beta-amyloid. Chemical and cellular markers of inflammation are also present.

We need to find out what causes these plaques and how we can prevent them. It is not clear at all if the problem with Alzheimer's disease is treatable with cell replacement therapy. Most experts I have contacted feel that the more promising solution will be early detection, very early detection, and medication to prevent progression and not cell replacement therapy.

Secondly, I am quite concerned that people are being falsely led to believe that it is only embryo stem cells that might have potential here.

Mr. Speaker, the following diseases have been successfully treated with adult stem cells from humans: Parkinson's disease, blindness has been treated, relief of symptom of lupus, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis; the cure of combined immunodeficiency diseases, the treatment of several different types of leukemia, solid tumors, neuroblastomas, non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, multiple sclerosis. Indeed, the list goes on and on.

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However, there have been no successful treatments of any humans with embryo stem cells, and, as I have said repeatedly on this floor, they do not have an animal model of successfully treating an animal with embryo stem cells. Indeed, it is unclear if they will ever have clinical usefulness.

Last, I would like to say the President of the United States, George Bush, is unfairly being portrayed in the press as standing in the way of this research progressing. The truth is embryo stem cell research is perfectly legal in the United States today. The debate is who is going to fund this research.

Many of us feel that this research should be funded by private dollars and not funded by the American taxpayer because, number one, it involves the destruction of a human embryo, a human life, and, number two, it is quite unclear if it will ever have any clinical significance. Indeed, some groups, I must say, are engaged in what I believe is deceptive communications on this issue. A case in point I will cite is the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The JDRF claims that embryo stem cell research is the most promising research. Their lobbying packet contains in its table of contents "embryo stem cell research, stem cell research, our best hope for a cure." However, JDRF had a \$80 million research and education budget. They only spent \$3 million on embryo stem cells, which is 4 percent of their budget, but, Mr. Speaker, they spent \$15 million, four times as much, 20 percent of their budget, on adult stem cell research.

Why is the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation saying that embryo stem cell research has the most potential but they are spending four times as much money on adult stem cell research?

The truth is we have a multi-billion dollar biotechnology industry in America today, and they are spending nothing on this research. The advocates for this research are clamoring to get the American taxpayer to pay for it. In my opinion, that is an insult to the legacy of Ronald Reagan, asking the Federal Government to pick up the tab for something of questionable value, when private industry would reap huge benefits if it really had the potential it did have.

I think President George Bush is making the right move, and we need to support him in this decision.

COMPARING CONGRESS TO THE MOVIE "GROUNDHOG DAY"

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Lately around this Congress I feel like it is Groundhog Day. I never knew that Bill Murray became a consultant to the Republican Conference. As you know, in the movie Bill Murray's character relived the same day over and over again, and here in Congress we are doing the same.

Take the energy bill that we were just debating so eloquently here. The same bill, nothing has happened to the

bill, same bill we took up back in November, H.R. 6. The only thing different is a new number. That is the only thing that is different about this energy bill. It never moved in the Senate, the President has not gotten behind it and gotten it passed or anything. Yet we take up again.

Here are some the things Congress has done just the same, while the American people face higher costs for college education, health care, energy costs, and their pay stubs are not getting any better.

H.R. 4280, medical malpractice bill, same as H.R. 5. We took it up in March of 2003. Nothing happened, but we took it up again.

H.R. 4281, the Association Health Plan bill, the same as the H.R. 660, which originally was taken up in June of 2003, but no action in the Senate.

H.R. 4409, the teacher training bill, the same as H.R. 2211 which we took up in July 2003, but no action in the Senate.

H.R. 4411, the graduate studies bill, the same as H.R. 3076. We took it up in October of 2003, no action in the Senate.

Ironically, there is nothing new here in the Republican plan. Somehow they have decided that motion is better than action, that rather than doing something it is better to look like you are doing something.

As the American people struggle to make ends meet, as they struggle to meet the challenges of trying to send their kids to college, they used to be able to do it with one job, now they need two to educate their children, as the American people struggle to deal with health care costs that have gone up by one-third. It used to be \$6,500 for a family of four, now it is \$9,000 for a family of four. What do we do? Take up bills that have gone nowhere and are going nowhere, just so it looks like this body is doing something, while you face constant challenges trying to meet the needs and requirements of your family.

Today, the Labor Department reported that consumer prices increased by nearly one point last month, the sharpest increase since January 2001. Since 2000, health care insurance premiums have increased from \$6,500 to nearly \$9,000. College tuition has on average increased by \$1,200 a year the last 3 years in a row. In my home State of Illinois, the average graduate from the State university graduates with a diploma and, on the other side, \$15,000 of debts. Who knew on graduation day you get your first Visa bill? Care costs have increased by \$2,000, and average yearly gasoline costs by \$1,000.

What does the Congress do, the People's House? We take up legislation that we have taken up before that is going nowhere and going nowhere fast. It is Groundhog Day here in this Congress. We have lost nearly 1.5 million private sector jobs since 2000, and family incomes have declined on average 1,500.

The average American household now carries \$9,000 in credit card debt and \$17,000 in overall household debt. The squeeze has resulted in 1.6 million households declaring bankruptcy in 2003, a 33 percent increase since 2000. The administration's budget, while these challenges are facing the American families, has cut job training, underfunded Leave No Child Behind, the education initiative by nearly 9 billion, and cut housing and home ownership programs.

The American people, in my view, deserve better. Rather than revisiting last year's failed energy bill, we should be working to reduce the cost of energy prices today and natural gas prices. We should be working to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We should be working to ensure that we increase the Pell Grant, college assistance, the Perkins loans, and ensure that we pass a Higher Education Reauthorization Act.

But we are not going to do that. So what we are going to do is take up medical malpractice, which we took up before, but it is going nowhere. We are going to take up the energy bill that failed to go anywhere, just so you have the impression we are doing something here.

It is Groundhog Day, and Bill Murray has now become a member of the Republican Conference. The American people cannot afford for us to repeat the same mistakes until we get it right, nor should they have to.

Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose." From this day forward, we should choose to govern.

NOTHING CONSERVATIVE ABOUT WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the biggest news story concerned a car bombing in Baghdad which killed 13 people. Almost all major news outlets reported that immediately following this bombing there was a large anti-American demonstration by Iraqi citizens. They somehow were blaming the bombing on the U.S. and they burned an American flag.

A few weeks ago, just before the release of the Iraqi prison pictures, CNN released a poll of 3,000 Iraqis. That poll found that only 19 percent of the people of Iraq view us as liberators, while more than 70 percent viewed us as occupiers.

CNN found that 78 percent of Iraqis had an unfavorable view of the U.S.

Even worse, at about that same time in another poll taken before the release of the prison pictures, the survey found that 82 percent of Iraqis had an unfavorable view of the U.S. This poll was taken by the Coalition Provisional Authority, our own government. In other words, our own poll. It said 82 percent of Iraqis had a bad opinion of the U.S.