

passage through Iran, Iran, not Iraq but Iran. I guess we made a mistake as far as what country to invade.

But seriously, let me just read several excerpts from the Sunday editions of the New York Times. "The final report of the commission investigating the September 11 attacks will offer new evidence of cooperative ties between Iran and al Qaeda including information drawn from intelligence reports suggesting that Iran provided several of the hijackers with safe passage in the year before the attacks, government official said. The evidence raised enough questions about why the Bush administration focused on the possibility of Iraqi ties to be Osama bin Laden's terror network after 9-11 when there may have been far more extensive evidence of the Iranian connection. The panel had recently obtained intelligence showing that Iran had ordered guards at its border stations not to stop the passports of al Qaeda members from Saudi Arabia who were moving through Iran after training at terrorists camps in Afghanistan."

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My memory is this Iran, according to the President, was a member of the axis of evil club, but as you pointed out, there is no collaborative relationship according to the commission between Iraq and Iran. But why did we end up attacking Iraq rather than Iran?

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I will answer that question. The reason we attacked Iraq is that the day after September 11, maybe it was 2 days after, it has been reported that the Secretary of Defense goes in to the President and says now is our chance, now is our chance to go after Iraq. This was like 48 hours after September 11. There was no evidence whatsoever that Iraq was associated with September 11, but this President and his political advisers knew one thing. They knew if they could fool the American people into believing that Saddam Hussein was behind September 11, the neo-cons could con the American people into supporting a war in Iraq, and to some degree, their maliciousness was successful to the detriment of our proud men and women in service who are there tonight in the heat of Iraq, 130 degrees, suffering, dying in the sands of Iraq because an American President's administration was not forthright with the American people and consciously, willfully gave false information to our fellow countrymen.

This is not just a little happenstance. We have a memo from a political operative of the President about how to talk about this. This was a cold-blooded, calculated act, and you talk about having your missed priority and what country you would be involved in.

I have been asked by one of my constituents if I have seen the movie "Fahrenheit 9/11." He said, JAY, is it true, did the President allow the family members of Osama bin Laden, who

are Saudi Arabian, to fly out of the country when all the other planes were grounded in the country? Did this administration let his friends from Saudi Arabia fly out of the country without a full and thorough investigation of their relationship? Did that really happen?

The sad fact is, yes, it did, and we have discovered that, in fact, did occur in our Committee on Financial Services hearing, and I pressed for an answer of who made that decision. I never got that answer, who made that decision, and 3 days later, the President is on the south portico of the White House smoking cigars with Prince Bandahar, the ambassador of Saudi Arabia, where two-thirds of the terrorists came from that attacked this country, and we let their families fly out without even a decent interrogation of them. Talk about having a mixed-up relationship about who our enemies are and who our friends are.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Does it come as a surprise to you that at least according to Bob Woodward in his most recent book, a book that was praised by the White House, in fact, there are excerpts of it I understand on the President's campaign Web site, but in that particular book, it was noted by the author that Prince Bandahar was informed of the attack on Iraq prior to the Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Let me go back just for a moment, because I know we are wrapping up, to another observation by Mr. Woodward, and this I would suggest is where ideology colors reality and affects the truth, the objective truth.

The passion of some in this administration, and I put beside you there a Newsweek cover with a picture of the Vice President DICK CHENEY, emblazoned that says how DICK CHENEY sold the war. It was clear that this individual was obsessed with Iraq, for whatever reason. I am not questioning his motives.

But in the book by Mr. Woodward, it is noted on page 175, for those who might have it, that the Secretary of State "detected a kind of fever in CHENEY. He was not the steady, unemotional rock that he had witnessed a dozen years earlier during the run-up to the Gulf War. The Vice President was hell-bent for action against Saddam Hussein." It is very dangerous when ideology colors the objective truth and reality. In the end, it gets us in a mess, and this is where we are now.

Mr. INSLEE. Well, I am going to close with a couple of comments.

We are here to discuss a basic principle of American democracy, and that is, accountability, that people in public service need to be held accountable, both for their successes and their failures.

There is a group that we should recognize for valor and effectiveness and honor in our government and our government personnel, and that is our Army, navy, air corps, Coast Guard, marines, who are serving in Iraq. Those

folks deserve to be held accountable by being praised for their tremendous service to this country in difficult circumstances tonight, and they are still continuing to suffer the pangs of war tonight, and we have come here to make sure that their sacrifice is not forgotten and that we treat them with as great an honor as we can and that we restore our Veterans Administration health care system so that when they come home they are not exposed to the cuts in the veterans health care system that this administration has proposed.

This group of public servants, we cannot forget their contribution. It should never be forgotten, but there is another group of public servants whose massive failures and deceit should not be forgotten either, and that is the Bush administration who has made at least 10 major failure, falsehoods, negligence and carelessness, to the great cost of the American public, and those public servants should not be forgotten in their failure either and should be held accountable, and we will continue to have this discussion until they are.

Would the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) like to close? Do you have any closing comments?

Mr. DELAHUNT. No, I concur with those sentiments.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2004, AT PAGE H5851

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR) assumed the chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair lays before the House the following enrolled bill:

S. 15. An act to amend the Public Health Services Act to provide protections and countermeasures against chemical, radiological, or nuclear agents that may be used in a terrorist attack against the United States by giving the National Institutes of Health contracting flexibility, infrastructure improvements, and expediting the scientific peer review process, and streamlining the Food and Drug Administration approval process of countermeasures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of physician's advice.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. FROST (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. QUINN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of his father.

Mr. RENZI (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of his speaking to the Navajo Nation Tribal Council.

Mr. BARTON of Texas (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of official business.

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:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STENHOLM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HILL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TANNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOYD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HERSETH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. COLE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and July 20, 21, 22, and 23.

Mr. COX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HENSARLING, for 5 minutes, July 21.

Mr. GOODE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, July 22.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, July 21.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, July 20 and 21.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, July 20 and 21.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2479. An act to amend chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for Federal employees to make elections to make, modify, and terminate contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund at any time, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 14, 2004 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 3846. To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement or contract with Indian tribes meeting certain criteria to carry out projects to protect Indian forest land.

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 16, 2004 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 218. To amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 20, 2004, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9137. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of the intent to transfer funds provided in Pub. L. 107-38, the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Acts on the United States, to the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction; (H. Doc. No. 108-202); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

9138. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Report to Congress on the Plutonium Storage at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, pursuant to Public Law 107-314, section 3183; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9139. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Michael L. Cowan, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9140. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Charles W. Moore, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9141. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the next higher grade in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9142. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Lo-

gistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the report of the results of the study of the adequacy of the beryllium industrial base, pursuant to Public Law 108-136, section 824; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9143. A letter from the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting the Annual Report of the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program for Fiscal Year 2003, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2902(d)(3) and (g)(2) Public Law 101-510; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9144. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the circulation of the Golden Dollar coin at resale activities on domestic military installations as requested by Senate Report 108-87 on the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for FY 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9145. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting a report entitled, "Merger Decisions 2003," in accordance with Section 18(c)(9) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

9146. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting Annual uranium marketing report for 2003, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2296b-5; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9147. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the final report on the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) program for FY 2003, pursuant to Public Law 105-388 42 U.S.C. 13211-13219; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9148. A letter from the Chairman, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, transmitting the Sixth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Administrative Simplification Provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, pursuant to Public Law 104-191, section 263; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9149. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 04-11), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

9150. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 04-10), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

9151. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, Agency for International Development, transmitting a report on economic conditions in Egypt 2003, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2346 note; to the Committee on International Relations.

9152. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that no offensive biological weapons research prohibited by international law is being conducted at the listed facilities and that appropriate security measures have begun to be, or will be, put in place at the listed facilities to prevent theft of dangerous pathogens from the facilities, pursuant to Public Law 108-136, section 1304; to the Committee on International Relations.

9153. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2004-31, Waiving Prohibition on