

and his belief. I happen to believe that he is wrong and is being proven wrong every day by the facts. And let the facts speak for themselves.

That is the whole question today, and this is something that we can continue to argue, but if we do not get some agreements fairly soon, middle-income folks will get a tax increase, and it will not be my fault.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CITIZENSHIP DAY

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 12 our office hosted our 10th annual Citizenship Day event. This is a one-stop application processing opportunity for residents who wish to become U.S. citizens. With the help of local volunteers, elected officials and community-based organizations, we were able to help over 150 residents take their first step to becoming a U.S. citizen. Over 10 years we have assisted thousands of people to become citizens of this great Nation.

The Citizenship Day process involves completing United States Customs and Immigration Service forms, taking photographs, and having volunteer attorneys and U.S. Customs and Immigration Service representatives review the application and actually mailing it that day.

Every year this event can bring tears to your eyes at the number of people who want to become citizens of our great country. While some of us tend to take for granted that we live in a great country, others wait in line all night long simply to submit an application to become a U.S. citizen.

Although an event like this takes many months of coordinating, the rewards are remarkable. Not only does it provide a service to our community, but it increases awareness among legal residents about how important it is to become a citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to list in the RECORD all the volunteers and groups that helped us on this event, as follows:

Houston Community College—Northeast Campus, Harris County Constable Victor Trevino, U.S. Customs and Immigration Service, United States Postal Service, JP Morgan Chase, Alma Latina Taqueria, League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC, National Association of Latino Elected Officials, Hispanic Organization of Postal Employees HOPE, Telemundo, Univision, Quan, Burdette & Perez, Attorneys at Law, Hipolito Acosta-Houston District Director of USCIS, Rose Aguilar, Mary Almdendarez, Norma Ambriz, Carmen Bermudez, Graciela Caballero, Rob Caballero, John Cedillo, Mary Closner, Tolanda Crombie, Anselmo Davila, Zonia Davila, Elias De La Garza, Cesar De Paz, Hector DeLeon, Olivia Del Bosque, Raul Diaz, Debbie Dimas, Jaime Elizondo, Armando Entenza, Linda Escamilla, Fernando Espadin, Pedro Espadin, Silvia Espadin, Charles Flores, Tim Floyd, Carmen Galle, Jaime Garcia, Juan Garcia, Rose Garcia, Martina Garcia, Sophie Ha, Krystal Hernandez, Ernest Hill, Amalia Huerta, Natasha Jabbar, Andres Lara, Dorothy Ledezma, Teresa Longoria, John Martinez, Leticia Martinez, Frances Munoz, Valerie Noyoda, Anna Nunez, Isela Obregon, Rafael Palafox, Claudia Pulido, Isabel Ramirez, Sylvia Ramirez-Martinez, Mary Ramos, Christina Ramos Avila, Francisco Rodriguez III, Margaret Rodriguez, Catalina Rosas, Patrese Ruffin-Bush, David Ruiz, Rosalinda Salazar, Noe Sanchez, Cathy Shuler, Teri Smith, Christie Nga, Glida Treadway, Theresa Turnini, Frank Urteaga, Moses Villapando, Juana Wilson.

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.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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, when Ronald Reagan was running for President in 1980, he asked voters the question, "Are you better off now than you were 4 years ago?" Ronald Reagan won the 1980 election, becoming the 40th President of the United States.

Now, in the year 2004, the disarray of world events and the failed economic policies of the Bush administration

force us to ask of the American people once more, "Are you better off than you were 4 years ago?"

Since he became President in 2001, George W. Bush has enacted the infamous policy of preemption. This doctrine asserts that the United States has the right to attack any country that the President thinks may seek to attack the United States without having any proof to back up that assumption.

Claiming this policy makes America safer against the threat of terrorism ignores the truth, that the war in Iraq has struck a hornet's nest of hatred in the Arab world against the United States for what it sees as a war against Islam.

In his annual budget request, President Bush has pushed hard for billions of dollars to fund an unproven missile defense system and research on new, illegal nuclear weapons. He claims these enormous weapons systems will make America safer against the threat of terrorism, but vast defense spending has squandered money that should be spent at home on health care for the millions of uninsured, on retirement benefits for our Nation's veterans, and funding for new energy sources to stop our dependence on foreign oil.

The time has come for a new national security strategy, and I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism.

In crafting this legislation, my staff and I received brilliant support and counsel from Ira Shorr, from Physicians For Social Responsibility; from Bridget Moix, from the Friends Committee on National Legislation; and Marie Rietmann, from Women's Action for New Directions. Without them, this legislation would not have happened.

SMART security will make the world safer by preventing future acts of terrorism. Because terrorism is an international problem, our response to terrorism must involve the international community.

SMART security emphasizes multilateral partnership because we are stronger when we work together than when we alienate our friends and allies, rejecting their participation, rejecting their help.

The possibility of nuclear weapons falling into the wrong hands is possibly the biggest threat we face as a Nation, and SMART takes the threat of weapons of mass destruction seriously.

SMART takes the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, which has been successful in dismantling nuclear weapons and materials in the states of the former Soviet Union, and replicates this program in other nuclear powers like Iran and North Korea.

It invests not only in new, effective weapons systems and equipment, but in peacekeeping and reconstruction efforts to prevent terrorism, exactly the kind of support that is needed in places like Haiti, Liberia, Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, every country in the world knows that America is the strongest nation in the world, particularly when it comes to defense. We have billions of dollars in weapons to prove it, but sometimes situations call for more than just brute strength.

Let us not look back in another 4 years and wish we had done things differently. It is time America got smart about its national security.

I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this vitally important resolution, H. Con. Res. 392. Let us be smart about our future. SMART security is tough, pragmatic and patriotic, and it will keep America safe.

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

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

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.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE TO ACCOUNT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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, this is the administration that lays claim to security. They have got it under control. They have got it covered. They know, so Americans should trust them and reward them with another 4 years.

Well, it sure does not look that way. It took an independent, bipartisan panel to uncover 3 years later the fact that many of the 9/11 terrorists had crossed Iran's border with the knowledge and approval of the Iranian Government.

Why did the administration not know this? They made claims about their leadership in the war on terror. The administration's word rings hollow in the light of the 9/11 Commission's revelations.

When it comes to the war on terror, this revelation demonstrates this administration does not know what it does not know, but they claim to be

the leaders and they claim it now. Clearly, they do not. Three years after 9/11 occurred there is no excuse for them having to find out from the 9/11 Commission.

The 9/11 Commission, with nothing close to the resources the administration has at its disposal, was able to uncover that many of the hijackers passed through Iran. Why did the administration not know this?

What else do they not know? Why have 3 years gone by without an investigation into Iran? Why is that? What does this revelation mean about Iran? We do not know and neither does this administration.

How could this happen? Very simply. The administration's obsession with Iraq. It is that simple. The administration diverted attention, resources and global support away from Afghanistan and the hunt for Osama bin Laden. This administration launched a war in Iraq on thinner evidence than what has been discovered about Iran and al Qaeda.

The President talked tough today. Is he signaling the start of another pre-war campaign? That was the pattern in Iraq. Start the rhetoric out in the open and plan behind the closed doors.

Is that what is going on here? Considering the overwhelming U.S. military commitment in Iraq, the truth is, the United States has limited, if any, real ability to launch another significant military action while 160,000 troops remain in Iraq.

What does that mean? It means we are overextended for one thing. It means that diversion into Iraq diverted the war on terror. It means the President's decision to invade Iraq deprived us of the right to investigate Iran. We have lost invaluable time, measured in years, when this administration beat a drum beat that turned war rhetoric with Iraq into reality.

The 9/11 Commission has given us a glimpse of what we do not know. The rhetoric only goes so far. In the aftermath of the truth about Iraq, the administration's rhetoric is long on words but very short on credibility. That is not leading a war on terror.

Today, America strains under the weight and the consequences of a misguided war that substituted rhetoric for evidence. Today, America sees firsthand the consequences of a war that diverted us away from the real fight we have. Today, America is beginning to see what was overlooked, left behind or simply ignored in the administration's rush to judgment against Iraq.

Three years later, the consequences of the administration policy makes clear the real intelligence failure began not in the CIA but in the White House. Intelligence failure was not in the agencies. It was at the top, from the people who directed them. It should never have happened, and this administration will have to account with the America people in 105 days.

We cannot afford an administration that wastes 3 years on the investiga-

tion of a country with nuclear power and other issues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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