

Department to investigate fairly and impartially who leaked this? And why is this administration trying to distract the American people again from the 9/11 Commission report, a commission that this White House did not support the creation thereof or the continuation of this commission? And most importantly, does this administration trust the American people with the truth? I think not.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to President Bush for the good news he has given all Americans.

Thanks to his efforts to combat terrorism, terrorists around the world are on the run. Thanks to his economic initiatives, more than one million new jobs have been created in the last several months. Thanks to his education legislation, America's children are doing better in school. Thanks to his Medicare reform, seniors pay less for prescription drugs. Thanks to his tax relief, every taxpayer has more to spend on their family's needs.

Yet, many of the President's opponents, frankly, hate him and the national media is biased against him. Why does the President's good news bring out the worst in others?

Well, I do not know, but I do have a hunch that most Americans will give the President their heartfelt thanks on Election Day.

ONGOING ADMINISTRATION FAILURE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, the Republicans can try and dredge up the ghosts of administrations past, but this commission report released this morning says that both the Clinton and Bush administrations are equally culpable in 9/11. What they say is there is an ongoing failure. The greatest failure is of our intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies to share information.

They say no matter how much money you dump into the intelligence agencies, they are going to continue to fail because of the culture of keeping their own information. They say we need to establish a new way of sharing information among those agencies.

The gigantic bureaucracy of the Department of Homeland Security, written on the back of a napkin by Karl Rove at the White House, did not get there because it excluded the intelligence agencies who failed the United States of America. Nothing has been done about this ongoing failing to inte-

grate the information. They put out something called the TTIC, the Terrorist Threat Information Center. Guess what? They send low-level people there on short details and they do not share. They are like 3-year-olds about billion dollar budgets.

They have the information to make this country safe. It is time for this Congress and this administration to take the steps we need that are outlined in this report. Forget about Sandy Berger and a bunch of other B.S.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The Members are reminded to avoid profanity.

IRAQ'S RETURN TO NORMALCY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, there is still a lot to do, but as we speak the Iraqi government is making progress. Iraqi police are rounding up kidnappers. The Kurds have captured 15 foreign militants in Kirkuk, including a key leader and an al-Qaeda affiliate.

The number of Arab and other foreign fighters currently detained in Iraq continues to grow. Iraq's border police have apprehended more than 60,000 foreigners in the past 7 months, most of them Iranians trying to enter Iraq illegally, and there are plenty of signs that the residents of Baghdad are finding a sense of normalcy amidst the transition to democracy.

Five teams participated in the first Iraqi baseball tournament, including two female teams. Nightlife is returning to the banks of the Tigris River, and residents have started frequenting summer cafes.

In Mosul the military is working with Iraqis to dig wells, renew archeological digs, build a laboratory and repair a hospital elevator.

The Iraqi people are making progress despite the ongoing efforts of terrorists to drag them back to the dark ages of Saddam Hussein.

WILL THE PRESIDENT KEEP HIS COMMITMENTS?

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, every single law enforcement organization, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, supports our efforts, or lack of them, our efforts to continue the ban on assault weapons. Their only purpose is to kill or maim. The President made a commitment in his campaign in 2000. He said it. I did not. He said he would continue that ban, and now he is gone back on it.

Now, Mayor Bloomberg of New York said something very interesting 2 weeks ago. You folks are going up there for your convention. They had 11 homicides 2 weekends ago. He stood in a press conference and said, there are too many weapons on the street.

I say to Mayor Bloomberg, call your President, remind him of the commitment he made in the 2000 campaign, the presidential campaign, and make sure he keeps those commitments. We do not need another Columbine. We do not need another spraying of people who are innocently lost day in and day out. What we need is keeping our commitment. Will the President?

SLOPPY SOCKS SCANDAL

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am hearing from my constituents on the Sandy Berger sloppy socks scandal. They are horrified, absolutely horrified that somebody who was trusted with our Nation's security would stoop to such a level of carelessness that now we have the situation where it appears he has stuffed it in his socks, in his pants pocket, in his jacket pocket and has taken frequent, frequent restroom breaks.

What happened with the documents?

They are offended that the former President would make this a laughing matter and talk about how he laughed about the carelessness.

Let me tell you, my constituents want some answers.

Here is an e-mail from one of my constituents. "I do not care when it was discovered or when it was released, only that it took place. I am very concerned that any government representative would minimize the action or regard it as sloppy, careless or a mistake. It is a crime."

The people want answers. They expect a full investigation.

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THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as I got up this morning, I heard on CNN news that the Republican leadership had already decided we cannot do anything about the 9/11 report until next year.

What we come to this morning is, first, the gentleman from Florida, now the lady from Tennessee, to tell us that the problem is Sandy Berger. Hey, folks, do not pay any attention to that report, just look at Sandy Berger's picture. Come on, look at Sandy Berger's picture. Look at Sandy Berger's picture. That is what you want to do.

This is a distraction by the White House. This is a damning report, and

we can spend all the time we want to blaming people here, but the question is what are we going to do.

The Republicans say they care about terrorism. This here is a report that gives us concrete things to do; and the leadership of the Republican Party says, well, put this up on the shelf, this 9/11 report, just put it up there, and let us go down and talk about Sandy Berger.

Did anything get lost? Did the commission say they could do not their work? Did the Justice Department come to it with any charges against Mr. Berger? No.

Now, we do not want to talk about the White House and Vivian Plame, or whatever her name was, that they outed or the majority leader who seems to be in some difficulty in Texas. We do not want to talk about that stuff. Let us talk about what needs to be done with the terrorism report.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WASTES A LOT OF MONEY

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, almost every Member of this Congress wants us to have a strong military, and we all want to support our troops. Yet almost everyone realizes, too, that the Defense Department unfortunately wastes a lot of money.

It seems to me that we have an obligation to the taxpayers to speak out against this waste, or it will get even worse.

Now national news organizations and publications have reported that the Defense Department has paid for 556 breast enlargements and 1,592 liposuctions for soldiers and dependents from 2000 through the first 3 months of 2004. These are very expensive operations.

I realize the Federal bureaucrats can rationalize or justify almost any expense, especially since it is not coming out of their pockets, but soldiers have an obligation to stay in shape and meet physical fitness requirements and should not need liposuction for severe obesity.

Certainly, it does not make any sense to say that breast enlargements will make women better soldiers.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. MATHESON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, since the start of the current administration in January of 2001, the national debt has increased by \$1,639,772,884,702.

According to the Web site for the Bureau of the Public Debt at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, yesterday the Nation's total outstanding, privately held debt was \$4,228,551,437,783.

Foreign holdings of U.S. privately held debt now total \$1.75 trillion. This

is an increase of \$740 billion since January of 2001, and it is 41 percent of all privately held U.S. debt.

For the sake of our children and our grandchildren, the fiscal health of our country deserves far better care and attention from the White House and from this Congress.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, before the ink was even dry on the 9/11 report, before we even had a chance to read it, some were saying we should delay any action on the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

I have one simple question: What are we waiting for? Did we miss the point of 9/11? Remember, we cannot spell 9/11 without 9-1-1 and 9-1-1 means urgent, emergency, act now, life or death. It does not mean let us table this discussion until after the election.

The bipartisan commission has called for the creation of a national terrorist center with a new Cabinet-level intelligence chief. They call for the creation of a Joint House and Senate Committee on Intelligence with budget power. I say, great, let us do it, let us act now. What are we waiting for? What part of 9/11 does the leadership of this House not understand?

9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today the bipartisan 9/11 Commission gave their report to Members of Congress, and I think it was a solid report.

It pointed out we just did not have the imagination to perceive our enemies hating us so much that they would use airplanes as missiles and attack us in the somewhat cowardly, surprised manner that they did. We did not have the capabilities in our intelligence community because we looked at it through Cold War visions. We should have been looking ahead. Finally, we did have not the right management tools. The CIA, the FBI, and other agencies were not talking to each other.

Therefore, one of their recommendations was to put together a national security czar, one person who would be above the CIA and the FBI to kind of control the 15 different intelligence agencies. I think it is an interesting proposal, one that I think most Members of Congress are going to be receptive to.

They also said that we need to put together a committee, maybe a select joint committee between House and Senate, for more oversight, perhaps giving it the authority to authorize and appropriate. Oversight, Members of Congress are going to be very inter-

ested in this, and I am looking forward to a good bipartisan effort to address the issues raised by the 9/11 Commission.

BORROWING MONEY

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the American people understand what is happening with our fiscal House, our economic well-being.

I wonder if the American people know, Mr. Speaker, that the President of the United States is borrowing money to add to the largest annual deficit in the history of the United States, borrowing money to give tax cuts, tax cuts that will go disproportionately to households making over \$300,000 a year.

As the Wall Street Journal said just the other day, a very conservative newspaper, all of these prior trillion dollars of tax cuts have benefited primarily the very rich in our society, not the middle class, not the working class and not the poor; and they give reasons why that is so.

Instead of borrowing money, adding to the deficit for more tax cuts for the rich, who have done very well, thank you very much, why do we not invest that money in our Nation's infrastructure, roads, bridges, sewers, hospitals, school buildings, so that not only do we provide good-paying jobs but at the end of it we have something to show for it and we do not force our local property taxpayers to pick up the tab when the Federal Government should be paying for it, instead of giving it to the very rich who have done extraordinarily well. God bless them, but they do not need the money. America and our taxpayers need the money.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on a day of good news, when we have a report from the 9/11 Commission that has been thorough, bipartisan, with some solid, hard-hitting suggestions to make our country safer, when later this morning I am confident the House is going to take a vote condemning what is going on in Sudan and calling it what it is, genocide, moving us in the right direction. Sadly the House Republican leadership has managed to take the terrible idea of enshrining discrimination in our Constitution against gay and lesbian citizens and trump it, take it one step further.

We are about to debate a rule that for the first time in our history would pass legislation stripping from the Federal courts the ability to rule on constitutionality of Legislation. They want to do it specifically in a case of discrimination against our gay and lesbian citizens.