

Social Security, Medicare and defense, and interest on the public debt.

That interest we estimate, by 2014, is going to be \$350 billion, more than a thousand dollars per person, and if the President's policies are all implemented as he wants, it will be over \$400 billion per year for nothing, to pay off the interest on the debt that the next generation's parents incurred. And they are going to get nothing back.

Where are they going to find the money to educate their own children and make health insurance affordable? Where are they going to find the money to send their kids on to college? I do not know. I do not know where they find the money for public transportation, health research or any of the things that have made this country great, but those are the issues that this deficit is all about. That is why we are making such a big deal about it. It is so wrong, so irresponsible.

We will have spent a couple hundred billion dollars in Iraq. We will have spent money on homeland security, maybe \$30 billion a year. But those are not the principal reasons we have the deficit. About 60 percent of this deficit, way over the majority of the deficit, is attributable to tax cuts, to a policy that has been irresponsible from the very beginning. There is nothing wrong with giving people child tax credits. There is nothing wrong with accelerating depreciation in plant and equipment and so on, but there is something wrong when the average 20-year-old gets about \$300 from a tax cut, and that is about 1 percent of what millionaires will get out of this tax cut. That is wrong.

This tax cut did not go to those people who needed it the most; it went to those people who needed it the least. And it is so doubly wrong to be paying for it on the backs of the working class by borrowing from Social Security and Medicare trust funds, by sending the debt to our children's generation and then retiring on Social Security and Medicare, leaving them to pay for our Social Security and medical costs, leaving them to pay the interest on the debt we accumulated and leaving them with virtually no resources to invest in their own children's education, health care, transportation, law enforcement and the like. It is just unbelievable how irresponsible this economic policy has been.

We would never treat our own children like this, but somehow, as a country, despite all our rhetoric to the contrary, this body has left a debt on the backs of our children that we know they can never, ever recover from, and it did not have to happen. That is why we are on the floor today urging this administration, urging this House of Representatives to do the right thing, not to continue to make permanent tax cuts that cannot be paid for, that are not necessary to stimulating this economy; not to continue a policy that is based upon turning the debt over to the next generation. It is irresponsible, it is un-American, and it is wrong.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) for his eloquent remarks. That is the reason we took advantage of this Special Order, to call attention to this problem. It should be a problem of national concern, a call to action.

Here we are 9 days before the end of the fiscal year, and we do not even have a budget for next year, much less a multi-year budget like those we adopted in 1990, 1993 and 1997 and finally brought the deficit to heel. We do not have any of the implements in place to deal with this monumental problem, even though we proved in the 1990s that those implements, like the PAYGO rule, the discretionary spending ceiling and sequestration were useful tools and could actually turn the budget around from a deficit of \$290 billion in 1992 to a surplus of \$236 billion in 1998. That actually happened, and it can happen again if there is leadership coupled with the right process and procedures in this House, and we do not have them at all.

We do not even have enough consensus under the Republican leadership of this House and Senate to develop a budget for next year, much less a budget for the next 5 years. We will never do it. If there is anything learned from the 1990s, we will never do it ad hoc. Indeed, the biggest enemy I have often said of deficit reduction is something we call disaggregation, breaking the process up into so many pieces that nobody ever gets a full picture of what is happening even though it is a monumental process.

So here I stand, 9 days before the end of the fiscal year. We thought it was an appropriate time to call attention to the record of this year, the record debt, and to the fact there is no prospect for dealing with this in 2005 at all.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) for clarifying the context in which this Special Order was made. I know that the gentleman supported President Bush, the 41st President's policy of PAYGO. If we are going to cut taxes, we have to show how we are going to pay for it.

□ 2145

We have got to balance the budget. President Bush the 41st set us on to that path of fiscal responsibility. President Clinton, in the 1993 Balanced Budget Act, made it work. He put tight spending limits. He made sure that if we cut taxes, then we are going to offset it so that we can continue to keep that balanced budget. And, boy, it worked. For 8 years it worked. And I know how strongly our ranking member on the Committee on the Budget supported that policy.

But now I know that the ranking member has supported just as strongly trying to sustain that policy; and yet for some reason, the other side, apparently, the majority of this Congress, feels that that policy, even as successful as it was, should not be continued.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, to wrap it up, looking back, we started off talking about the deficit and accumulation of debt. Here is what we have accomplished, this Congress and this administration, in 3 years:

The first year, instead of paying down the debt as the Clinton administration had done for 3 years in a row, they raised the debt ceiling by \$450 billion. That was good for just 1 year. The next year, 2003, they raised the debt ceiling again by \$984 billion, the biggest increase ever; and it has lasted for 15 months. Waiting in the wings right now is another debt ceiling increase of \$690 billion; and what it is waiting on is a bill to which it can be attached, a vehicle that can carry it to passage with as few fingerprints on it as possible because nobody wants to be responsible for passing that kind of debt ceiling increase.

So the Treasury is reduced to engaging in a lot of gimmicks with Federal retirement funds, for example, in order that we can tie things over until finally that debt-ceiling increase can be passed. In 3 years we will have raised the debt ceiling by \$2.1 trillion. Compare that to the previous 8 years, and it is a phenomenal and depressing reversal.

I thank the gentleman for his participation and his eloquent comments.

OUR TROOPS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCOTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the rotation of troops in Iraq that has occurred over the last year or so and the rotation that is being scheduled for the next year.

There has been a statement by the Kerry campaign, by Senator KERRY, to the effect that there is a secret plan to call up a lot more troops and to do some wild thing after the election. That is not the case, Mr. Speaker. And, in fact, we held a hearing in July in which the Department of Defense walked through their plan for the next phase or the next rotation of troops into Iraq. And let me for the record just go over what has taken place.

The first half of this chart showing Iraq shows the present configuration of major ground forces in Iraq; and what we had before this, of course, was the 101st Airborne up north in the northern area. We had the 4th Infantry Division in the Tikrit area. That is over here. We had the 1st Armored Division in the heart of Baghdad, and we had out to the western area, all the way to the Syrian border, the 82nd Airborne Division. That rotation took place in which those forces were replaced by the forces that are there right now.

And as a result of that, we have got a striker brigade up north that took

the place of the 101st Airborne. We have got the 1st Marine Division, in fact, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force consisting mainly of the 1st Marine Division and supporting elements in this western area of operation. That is this big AO that goes all the way to the Syrian border. Elements of the 1st Armored Division remain in Iraq, did not move out, while some of them did move back to Germany. And to supplement that force, the 1st Cavalry Division moved into the Baghdad area. And, of course, we have the 1st Infantry Division that took over for the 4th Infantry Division in the Tikrit area.

That is the present state of forces. And the complement of Reserve forces that mainly supports these active major units is roughly 40 percent of the total force of the 138,000-or-so Americans who serve in Iraq right now.

We will have what we call OIF-3. That is the next phase of deployments to Iraq, and that was briefed by the Department of Defense. It was not a secret, for Senator KERRY's edification. In fact, they came in and had a hearing with the Committee on Armed Services, with our committee, and laid out their blueprint; and we had nationally televised hearings on this rotation. And this rotation reflected this: that we will be going in the western area of operation, that is this area that goes west of Baghdad to the Syrian border. The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force will be replaced by another Marine Expeditionary Force. To the north we will have another striker brigade. That is the Mosul area. The 1st Infantry Division will be replaced in the Tikrit area up north of Baghdad by the 42nd Infantry Division. The 3rd Infantry Division will move into the Baghdad area, and portions of the 10th Mountain Division will move into the Baghdad area also, displacing the 1st Cav, which is presently in the Baghdad area, and the 1st Armored Division.

After Senator KERRY made those remarks, I contacted the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Myers, and he sent a letter, which I am going to place in the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, saying this: "With regard to the recent comments concerning our Reserve and National Guard alert notification process, I can assure you there has never been any guidance to defer notification until after the Presidential election."

The clear message in Senator KERRY's remarks was that somehow there was a secret plan to have a big rotation of troops that would be announced shortly after the election. Well, every 180 days there is an announcement of the next rotation of troops, and the reason we do that is so that the troops will have notification and will be able to tell their loved ones and get their affairs in order so that they can, in fact, embark on that particular rotation.

So in the spring, the Department of Defense came and told us about this next rotation that is called OIF-3 that will take place starting this fall and

moving through the spring. Then in November or December, they will come in, and they will give notification just like they did in April and May about the next rotation of forces that will displace OIF-3 and rotate into Iraq on a regularly scheduled basis.

The Reserve component of this 135,000 to 138,000 troops that is presently in Iraq will continue to be between 35 and 40 percent of the total force. So it will remain constant. There is not going to be any huge spike in the proportion or number of troops from the Reserves that make this particular force mix.

Let me read the last statement by General Myers when he talked about this. This is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after having said "I can assure you there has never been any guidance," never been any guidance, "to defer notification until after the Presidential election"; so every 6 months they make an announcement, and they lay down a blueprint like the blueprint that is front of us here. He says, "Alert notification is an established and consistent process based on meeting the needs of the combatant commander while ensuring, to the maximum extent possible, earliest notification of those units affected. As in the past, our goal is to alert as early as possible and mobilize in order to conduct necessary training before deployment."

"Our target for Reserve combat units is 6 months prior to their deployment given the time required to achieve proficiency at the company, battalion, and brigade levels of competence. Our target for our Reserve logistics units is less, currently at 4 months prior to deployment, since their tasks are typically smaller and less complex than their combat counterparts."

"The notification date is a balance between early notification and ensuring units are notified in as complete a package as possible and not so early that changes in the operational situation may alter the combatant commander's needs and ultimately the composition of the deploying force. In the case of the current rotation, we announced our plan in the spring of 2004, testified before your committee in July, 2004, and deployed the first unit in the fall of 2004. For the next rotation, we will announce our plan in November, 2004, with the first unit deploying in May, 2005."

He goes on: "As of September 15, 2004, 800 individual ready Reserve members have been activated. The intent is to fill 5,600 slots by December, 2004, with the potential to go higher if required. The skill sets that are in the highest demand are transportation, logisticians, mechanics, military police, and engineers." And that figure is consistent with what DOD told us several months ago, referring to the 5,600 people.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a blueprint of the deployment that has taken place and a blueprint of the deployment that

is to come; and every 6 months, without regard to politics, without regard to elections, and simply with regard to the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States and their families, the Department of Defense will continue to give advance notice on about a 180-day basis. So, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to lay that out.

A letter from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff follows:

CHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,

Washington, DC, September 20, 2004.

Hon. DUNCAN HUNTER,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: With regard to the recent comments concerning our Reserve and National Guard alert notification process, I can assure you there has never been any guidance to defer notification until after the Presidential election.

Alert notification is an established and consistent process based on meeting the needs of the Combatant Commander while ensuring, to the maximum extent possible, earliest notification of those units affected. As in the past, our goal is to alert as early as possible and mobilize in order to conduct necessary training before deployment. Our target for reserve combat units is six months prior to their deployment, given the time required to achieve proficiency at the company, battalion and brigade levels of competence. Our target for our reserve logistics units is less, currently at four months prior to deployment, since their tasks are typically smaller and less complex than their combat counterparts. The notification date is a balance between early notification and ensuring units are notified in as complete a package as possible, and not so early that changes in the operational situation may alter the Combatant Commander's needs and ultimately the composition of the deploying force. In the case of the current rotation, we announced our plan in the spring of 2004, testified before your committee in July 2004, and deployed the first unit in the fall of 2004. For the next rotation, we will announce our plan in November 2004, with the first unit deploying in May 2005.

As of September 25, 2004, 800 Individual Ready Reserve members have been activated. The intent is to fill 5,600 slots by December 2004, with a potential to go higher, if required. The skill sets that are in the highest demand are transportation, logisticians, mechanics, military police and engineers.

To reiterate, and consistent with our notification process, we will notify the next package of combat troops in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM in late November 2004 to meet a May 2005 deployment date or the lead unit of the rotation.

Sincerely,

RICHARD B. MYERS,
Chairman.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) and allow him to make a few remarks on the subject of Iraq.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, my chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, in recent days many of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle have come to the floor of the House to criticize the President's policies on Afghanistan and Iraq. The rhetoric of the minority side of the aisle is

paltry at best, and tonight I would like to try to set the record straight.

The two chief arguments of the Democratic Party that I believe are based on faulty logic are these: first, America has lost its focus on the war on terrorism in Afghanistan; and, second, President Bush has failed to build a true international coalition to fight this war.

Let us point to the administration's Afghan focus. First and foremost, we in the Congress must make the distinction between less cable news coverage and less administrative attention to the situation in Afghanistan. Despite what many would have us believe, the success stories coming out of Afghanistan are not only remarkable, but they far outnumber the negative ones. Negative stories make the news, but the positive ones are there as well. And native Afghans are returning to their homeland in droves now that the country has been liberated from the oppression of the Taliban. Just this year 200,000 Afghans have returned home from Pakistan, bringing the total number to 2.2 million from Pakistan since 2002. Also, recently the 1 millionth Afghan refugee returned home from Iran. Many of these refugees are highly educated teachers, health care providers, and community leaders that were thrown out of the country by the Taliban.

I do not believe that this extraordinary number of Afghan citizens would pick up and return home if they believed that Afghanistan was not a safer place. To the contrary, they are returning home because their country has been liberated from an oppressive regime and they are once again free. The Afghan economy continues to power ahead; and previously unheard-of opportunities are opening up, particularly, Mr. Speaker, for Afghan women.

Let us talk about democratic development. Perhaps the most notable development in Afghanistan is the progress of democracy. The country's first post-war presidential election is scheduled for October of this year. Voter registration efforts have exceeded, far exceeded, expectations. Several months ago, officials predicted up to 5 million registered voters, but according to the Joint Election Commission, more than 9 million people, out of 10 million eligible voters, have registered to vote, and 41.6 percent of them are women.

□ 2200

Furthermore, despite serious efforts to disrupt it, voter registration continues at a pace of up to 125,000 people per day. Afghan citizens are optimistic and excited by democracy, I think their country is headed in the right direction, and I commend our President for his efforts in this regard.

President Bush's efforts to build a true international coalition, let us just talk about that for a little while. Few positive and accurate statements have been made regarding the 32-nation

United States-British led coalition in Iraq or the 35-country security force in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, this has reinforced the falsehood that America is isolated and hated on the world stage.

Well, to the contrary, in fighting the War on Terror, the United States has assembled one of the greatest international coalitions this world has ever seen. The coalition in Iraq includes 21 nations from Europe and nine from Asia and Australia. Twelve of the 25 members of the European Union are represented. Sixteen of the 26 NATO member States are represented as well.

Let us recall that the decision to go to war in Iraq was undertaken only after years, years, of negotiations with the UN Security Council and no less than 17 failed resolutions.

There is broad political support internationally for United States aims and objectives in Iraq, as confirmed by the unanimously-passed UN Security Council Resolution 1546 which endorses the return of full sovereignty to Iraq and its interim government; sets out the role of the United Nations; and outlines the relationship between the new Iraqi government and the multinational force in the country after the end of the occupation by the CPA, the Coalition Provisional Authority, on May 28.

Furthermore, the United States has spearheaded a huge international effort to reconstruct Iraq and to negotiate forgiveness of the country's massive debts.

I am concerned that a failure to properly account for the reality of international coalition efforts strengthens all of this anti-American sentiment abroad and diminishes the sacrifices and the contributions that our allies are making in the war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, with the aid of the international coalition, millions of people have been liberated, 170 newspapers are now being published, new modern power plants are being built, 64,000 secondary school teachers have been trained and some 5,000 school principals and administrators. More than 8.7 million textbooks have been printed and distributed throughout Iraq. Coalition forces have rehabilitated almost 2,500 schools, 22 universities and 43 technical institutes and colleges are open today. All 240 hospitals and more than 1,200 health clinics are open for business.

Healthcare spending in Iraq has actually increased 30 times over its pre-war levels and children, listen to this, are receiving crucial vaccinations for the first time ever. Over 5 million children have been immunized for measles, mumps and rubella.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a handful of the good that this coalition has brought to the people of Iraq. It is a coalition that was forged and preserved by our President, and I believe that it is fundamentally wrong to diminish the achievements of this coalition.

Furthermore, I hope that the rhetoric of the minority party would not

dishearten brave citizens of the 32 other nations that are giving of their talent, their time, and, yes, their treasure to do what they think is right in defending the freedom and interests of the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I yield back to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and I thank him for giving me a little time to talk about all the good that is going on in Iraq and Afghanistan. We need to continue to bring that to the attention of our colleagues and the American people.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would like to just follow my colleague's comments for a second and then yield to the fine gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), also a member of the committee.

I am reminded that the gentleman has a military base in his area that is close to his hometown, Fort Benning, Georgia, the home of the United States Infantry.

Just thinking about Fort Benning, I am reminded of the great troops who are produced by Fort Benning over the many, many years, of people who fought in very difficult wars and who acquitted themselves in such an admirable fashion.

I am reminded of the attempts in recent years, especially in Vietnam, by members of the media and some Members of Congress, including Senator KERRY, to demean those people.

I remember Senator KERRY's statements when he came back in April of 1971 and appeared before a Senate committee and stated that America "had murdered 200,000 Vietnamese." He said at one point that 60 to 80 percent of our GI's were stoned 24 hours a day. He made outrageous statements.

It was that type of stereotyping and characterization that led to a mindset among some in this country that Vietnam veterans, that the GIs, the great products of the Infantry School at Fort Benning and many other GIs, were somehow misfits.

I can remember when we had a mass murder that happened at a McDonald's restaurant in San Diego during the '70's and one of the anchor persons asking, was it a Vietnam veteran that did it, as if "Vietnam veteran" and "misfit" went hand-in-hand.

That image was, to some degree, perpetrated by Senator KERRY and those like him who came back telling these outrageous lies about the people who carried the flag for the United States. He did not just speak against the war, which was fine; he demeaned his fellow troops.

I am reminded of another movie that was made about those great infantrymen who came from Fort Benning, and that is the movie that chronicled Hal Moore, who was a major who took on a huge number of North Vietnamese forces in the battle for LZ X-Ray early in the war when he commanded the First Cavalry unit, the unit of the same First Cav in Iraq today.

This movie for the first time, in which Mel Gibson starred and I think

did a great job, characterized the true spirit of the American fighting man. It was the first movie that had been done for 20 years that was not shot through the eyes of a drug-crazed hippie in Hollywood, but was in fact directed and produced through the eyes of an infantryman, in this case Hal Moore.

I thought one of the most moving parts of that movie was not only the fact that here was an Infantry leader that prayed with his troops, which Hal Moore did, but it also reflected the greatness of these military wives who were waiting back at Fort Benning as the battle for LZ X-Ray took place and casualty counts were coming in.

They dreaded that knock on the door by a Western Union telegram man saying that your husband was KIA in this battle for LZ X-Ray, which was an intense battle with a lot of casualties on the U.S. side and enormous casualties on the side of the North Vietnamese.

The wife of Hal Moore, having the telegram man come to her door and she thought this is it, Hal has been shot, he came in and said he was actually looking for another address up the street and she realized her good friend was going to get the bad news in a few minutes. She said, "Wait a minute, I will deliver that telegram," and Hal Moore's wife then went door-to-door delivering these telegrams and consoling the women whose husbands had been lost.

That movie, for the first time in 20 years, overcame the image, the wrongful image, that people like Senator KERRY had produced, that was largely consumed by the American public. When he appeared before that Senate committee and said that American GIs were cutting off limbs and raping and robbing, I think he used the term in a manner like Genghis Khan, he said Genghis Kahn instead of Genghis Khan, that put together an image, a false image, that was not shaken for almost 20 years in this country.

So I just want to thank the gentleman for representing that great piece of America that is truly the home of the Infantry.

Mr. GINGREY. If the gentleman will yield further, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, what the chairman was just saying is just so true. It came home to me in a big and tragic way in this past week. I am a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. The president of the student body just a couple of years ago at Georgia Tech, my alma mater, a young first lieutenant, Tyler Brown, was killed leading his troops in a firefight in Iraq.

He was an outstanding young man. Everybody said that one day Tyler would surely become President. I do not know about that, but I know that his mom and dad and his older brother Brent are suffering deeply now, as much as a person could possibly suffer, over the tragic loss of their son and brother.

As the chairman says, Mr. Speaker, you cannot support the troops out of

one side of your mouth and criticize them out of the other. This is the one thing that this family, this Brown family, has to hold on to for the rest of their lives, to know that Tyler, their son, who had such great potential, who gave his life for this country, killed in action, was not killed in vain.

I really appreciate the chairman, Mr. Speaker, bringing that out tonight, because you cannot be for the troops and against them. You cannot have it both ways.

I just felt like I needed to make that statement. I appreciate the chairman giving me the additional time to do that.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman and I appreciate the fact that he represents that great home of the Infantry.

I would like to yield at this time to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), also a very articulate member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I agree, Mr. Chairman, with that concept that we have a great many men and women who are serving nobly and have in the history of this great country.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of that great philosopher, Dan Quisenberry of the Kansas City Royals, he once said, "I have seen the future. It is just like the past, only longer."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am just an old history teacher who believes that if we do not view our past, we fail to clearly view our future, and that history illustrates there are several principles which have made this a great country.

I would like to talk about two of those principles in relationship to Iraq that I think are characteristics that have built this great country. One is patience in the face of adversity, and the second is a feeling of charity that Americans have always displayed to other people.

Sometimes I think we live in a society that venerates speed. Everything has to be done quickly. Our dialogue, our actions, sometimes illustrate that impatience that we have.

I would like at times to go back to the days of Williams Jennings Bryan when he would go along the Chautauqua circuit, and he could speak for 2 or 2½ hours to an audience, totally mesmerizing them.

I realize that some of the speeches that are given on this floor feel as if they are going 2 or 2½ hours and we are not always that hot in the mesmerizing category, but, nonetheless, it does have a precedent.

In Berlin in 1948, when the Soviet Union decided it was going to push us out of that city, we made a commitment that lasted over 15 months that every day, every 3 minutes, another plane landed to defend that particular city. It was our commitment, our patience and persistence in the face of adversity.

Even in the 1960s, if you were a politician, the average sound bite, the average response someone had on the

media, was about 45 seconds, which does not sound like much, but it is a long time if you think of what you can explain in 45 seconds.

Today, in contrast, we live in a world where kids watching children's programs will find that the visual will change every 10 seconds so they do not lose interest; that we have a sit-com mentality that thinks that all problems in the world have to be solved in 22 minutes plus commercials; and we are frustrated when we do not quickly have results. Instead of 45 seconds for a response, today in the media if you cannot give a response in 8 seconds or less, which is the average, it just does not happen.

All this contributes to a rush of judgment where we consider the situations we are in today unique, and we fail to learn what I think is important lessons from the past, and it is critical, in light of what is happening in Iraq.

We have people that believe since we are trying to reform a country and create a democracy in an area that has no tradition of that, that is a task that is too daunting, and if we cannot transform that society overnight, then it is a task that is too frustrating. And an enemy that is comprised mostly of non-Iraqis are there to try and test our patience in the face of adversity.

Now, what I would like to say is if you look at history, this situation is not unique or unusual. After World War II, we went into Japan, a country that had absolutely no tradition of democracy, and yet by 1952 we had created or helped to create and establish a stable democracy that is one of the major forces of the world today. But we fail to remember that that took 7 years of effort to reach that point.

In Germany, at the same time, we created a new constitution that is still in use, the "Basic Law," the Federal Republic, which is a strong republic, but we fail to remember that took us 4 years to reach that particular point.

In the Philippines after the Spanish-American War, it was 6 years of bloody violence before peace was brought and you could even start the reconstruction of that island nation.

□ 2215

In Iraq, which we have been in about the same time as the Berlin airlift used to break the Soviet determination to destroy that beautiful city, we have established a constitution, a new government, planned for elections, have a police force and an armed forces that are increasing every day. That is a phenomenal success in a short period of time. I guess we are doing things quickly today, but it is very positive. And that success will only come if we still maintain that value we have always had of patience in the face of adversity.

History says it is possible. History says that this country is best suited to be successful, and I believe that we can, in part because of the quality of our people.

If I could just very quickly talk about that other characteristic, which is the charity that we have always had to other people, by mentioning two people who have characteristics in common. One is they have great hearts; the other is they happen to be Utahans. If I could mention the name of Jared Kimber from Tremonton, a chief warrant officer, who emulated a former Utahan, a neighbor of his, Gail Halverson, known as the candy bomber in that Berlin airlift area of time.

But Jared, who flies a Black Hawk for the 82nd medical company, flying over the area, noticed that there were kids who just simply had nothing with which they could play. One day he noticed a bunch of kids trying to play soccer with a ball that deflated. So that day, he went to the PX. He bought candy. He bought soccer balls. He bought Frisbees, and as he was flying over, he distributed that from his helicopter. Every day he did that.

So, by June, he was getting packages from home weighing 60 pounds of stuff. A lady donated all of her stuffed bears for the kids of Iraq. The 9-year-olds in his community organized, and they got 300 balls of very different kinds so that the kids in Iraq could play with them, and those became Jared's kids for whom he sacrificed out of the goodness and the charity of his heart.

Another Utahan by the name of Paul Holton, a chief warrant officer in the Utah National Guard, a man that was mentioned by the President in his February National Prayer Breakfast is known now as Chief Wiggles over there, taking on something called Operation Shoe Fly where soldiers got shoes for needy families in Afghanistan. He recognized a problem in Iraq and gave it a new name called Operation Give in which clothing, dental supplies, toys and books are used for needy people.

In talking to students in Utah, Mr. Holton said, "War is challenging, sometimes a kill-or-be-killed kind of thing, and you are in a strange place, and it is dangerous. But what is missing? Well, it is the people." Holton said he was sick of hearing about all the bad stuff when there are so many good things that are also happening in Iraq.

He said the media makes it look like all Iraqis are hostile and want U.S. troops out. He realized it was important not only to help them establish freedom in their country but to reach out to them and address them on a personal level. He showed students pictures of friendly Iraqi children who benefited from this project as well as the families who welcomed the soldiers with open arms.

They are just like us in many ways, but they have lots of needs. Project Give or Operation Give helps let them know that we are not your enemy, we are here to help you and to give you freedom.

With that, he established a warehouse in Baghdad in an effort to try and help those who are from the poorest schools in the poorest segment. In

the spring of last year, he went to the high schools in Utah and said, as you are cleaning out your lockers, instead of throwing away all of your notebooks and supplies and pencils and crayons and everything, put them in a box. He gathered them together to make part of his trip to take them back to the poorest schools who, even though they have schools, do not have the supplies they need.

This is Operation Give, and this is the quality of people that we have working and leading and fighting and leading in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if it is against the rules if I mention that people can find out about Operation Give if they look up operationgive.org or www.chiefwiggles.com, because I certainly would not want to break the rules in letting people know about operationgive.org or chiefwiggles.com, so I hope if I say that, it is in the rules.

But I also recognize that we have within Iraq a situation that is going to be fraught with challenges, but we can meet those challenges because of the quality of people that we have and the history of success we have if we only keep our charity and our patience in the face of adversity.

As Patrick Henry once said, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that lamp is experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past." We have a great past to guide us.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity of being here and sharing this time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. I am reminded, when the gentleman talks about the goodness of American GIs, that our country is good, and those GIs are good because they come from families where giving and helping other people is part of their character and part of their values.

I myself have a chief of staff who, with another member of the staff, have formed a group called Rescue Task Force, and even shortly after we had taken Iraq, this chief of staff Wendall Cutting, who himself had cancer for a long period of time, moved into Iraq with the help of other international organizations and built medical facilities for the people of Iraq. And when we were operating in Kosovo, and Albania was an area in which we had many refugee camps, Mr. Cutting and another staff member, Gary Becks, were the first people into those refugee camps with 40,000 of what they call "love boxes" from the people of the United States. And those were little shoe boxes that would hold scissors, combs, some medical things. It would help people, maybe a pair of socks, things that people who had to leave their house immediately, as a lot of the people who were forced out of Kosovo had to do, would need.

And along with those boxes containing immediate convenience items, they brought in ultimately millions of

dollars worth of medical equipment and food to those refugee camps. And the first camp they went into, they mentioned that every child in the camp was ill because they did not have a good water supply.

I am reminded that, when I talked about helping them to raise money for this organization, my chief of staff Wendall Cutting, who himself has cancer, said, that will be great, because we have about \$1 million worth of supplies ready to go in to the people who suffered from the hurricanes in the southeast. And even as we talk, they are moving to take those supplies to those very needy people.

So, Mr. Speaker, Americans are good, and the American people are good. And they have infused and embedded those values and that virtue in their sons and daughters who right now are serving in Iraq. And that is a message that I think is not lost on the world.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of the noise that we hear in the world is something that is manufactured. It is not genuine. A lot of the criticism of the United States is not genuine. I am reminded of the time that my mother and father were in the Philippines, visiting the Philippines. And they were near the embassy in Manila, and there was a long line of people waiting to get visas at that embassy, as there are every day I might add. And they had at the same time an anti-American demonstration in the town square there next to the embassy in Manila. And the demonstrators had big, well-made signs that said: "America out of the Philippines"; "Uncle Sam, go home"; "America, get lost." And interestingly, the organizers of the demonstration against America were going over to the visa line where Filipinos were waiting to get visas to come into the United States, and they were hiring people out of the visa line to come hold these demonstration placards that said, "We hate America." So it is very clear that many of the anti-American demonstrations around the world are not genuine.

The people in almost every country know the goodness of Americans. It is interesting, a friend of mine remarked today that with all of the talk about what we can do to make the Muslim world understand the goodness of America, I was reminded that the last several wars that we have fought have been on behalf of Muslim nations. That is, we freed Kuwait from the occupation of Saddam Hussein, and we saved Saudi Arabia, because Saddam Hussein's tanks were in third gear at the moment that we stopped his armored divisions dead still with the insertion of American combat troops. And we saved people in Bosnia who were being brutalized. And we have helped Muslim people around the world.

The message of America is that goodness prevails, and our people are good. Our GIs are great ambassadors of that goodwill, and all of the projects that the gentleman from Georgia and the gentleman from Utah talked about

that are being undertaken in Iraq are real projects. They really help people. Those inoculations really do save babies, and it is something that we can be very proud of.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. McCOTTER.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Armed Services for recognizing a lowly member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would just tell the gentleman that he is a very articulate member of the Committee on International Relations. We would not think of not recognizing him.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, hopefully, we do a better job of talking so my colleagues have to do less cleaning up of our messes.

I just wanted to take a moment to talk about the President's speech in front of the United Nations, especially in relation to the horrific events that we have seen in Iraq. I think it is very important that we see that we have two messages, deeply distinct, that are being aimed at the hearts of the world and our fellow Americans. On the one hand, we have the President of the United States standing in front of the United Nations General Assembly and reaffirming this Nation's commitment to democracy, to liberty and to hope throughout the world. On the other hand, we have terrorists who, despite whatever political rationale they put forward, are nothing short of murderers who offer a perpetuation of evil and horror for their fellow human beings.

It would seem to me today that nothing could more show the stakes in Iraq, because, despite the panaceas that are proffered by many politicians, Iraq has two futures. Iraq will be a democracy, or Iraq will belong to Zarqawi. No amount of international support that is promised will materialize. It is up to the Iraqi people and America's coalition partners to ensure that Iraq remains free from any tyrant, especially the tyrants of terror that are currently exerting their will in some pockets of the country.

I bring this up because it is important for us here at home to realize that the gravest threat to the United States of America in the battle for Iraq is our resolve, as the President has rightly said. For, as it has been noted often, the war on terror is fought as much on a map as it is on your mind as a civilian. The images that we see, the actions that are put forward are designed to terrorize us. And they are designed to terrorize us so that we can no longer think clearly or rationally about the situation in Iraq. It is designed so that a handful of evil people can try to obscure the fact that tens of millions of Iraqi people are living daily lives and are trying to build a country and a better future for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, a terrorist attack by one suicide bomber that blows up 47

people standing in line to join in the defense of their country and the promotion of their future, the story there is not the terrorists, the suicide, the foreign terrorists destroying innocent life; it is over 47 people in Iraq were killed to stand in line to defend their freedom, to fight for a better future for themselves and their children. And they will keep standing in line, and they will keep coming. That is the story. It is the resiliency of the Iraqi people, not the evil of the terrorists who wish to subjugate them once again and turn Iraq back into a haven for terrorists.

It is the terror that will preclude us from seeing that stark reality, the reality that we need to see, the reality that the gentleman from Georgia talked about, the historical examples that have been put forward by the gentleman from Utah, the rational thought that is required of us as policymakers and as people of this Nation to understand not only the stakes but the situation.

As we go forward and as the world looks and has a chance to reflect upon the message of the terrorists or the message of our President at the U.N., I think it is also necessary at this time for me to point out that, at the United Nations, many of those people in that General Assembly would not be sitting in those seats if their countries were free and democratic. So to all of those nations, be they free or democratic in the United Nations, regarding Iraq, I would just like them to ponder one thing. History may commend them for a reluctance to wage a war, but history will condemn them for their refusal to win the peace. And right now, those are the stakes.

I appreciate the opportunity to talk on this issue.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, before I wrap up here, I would like to go over the rotation of U.S. forces in Iraq because, once again, the presidential candidate Senator KERRY has alleged that there is some secret plan to bring up a lot more people after the November elections, and I have a letter from the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Myers, that says that there is no secret plan.

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He states that there has been no deferences of any notices of the rotations in Iraq as a function of pressure from anybody. Once more, let me go over the units that have moved in on the last rotation and the units that will move in on the next rotation.

We had the First Airborne Division or the 101st Airborne Division in Northern Iraq, that has been replaced now by the First Striker Brigade up in the Mosul area. We had the Fourth Infantry Division in eastern Iraq centered in the Tikrit area. And that Fourth Infantry Division has been replaced by the First Infantry Division.

We had the 82nd Airborne in the western area of operations that goes all the way to the Syrian border. That has been replaced by the First Marine Expeditionary Force, made up primarily of the First Marine Division.

We had the First Armored Division in Baghdad. Part of its elements have been replaced by the First Cavalry Division. And we are going to be going to a new rotation that was briefed to us in July with plenty of time, plenty of advance notice and plenty of publicity to the world. I do not know if Senator KERRY saw it, but it certainly was not secret. It was on national television, and that rotation is manifested in the second chart.

That shows the Striker Brigade that is in northern Iraq presently being replaced by another Striker brigade. It shows the First Infantry Division in the eastern sector being replaced by the 42nd Infantry Division. It shows the First Cav and the First Armored Division being replaced by the Third Infantry Division, and the Tenth Mountain Brigade, and it shows the First Armored Division moving out and the First Cavalry Division moving out.

So that is the rotation with respect to Reserves. The ratio of Reserves to active forces will remain in the 35 to 40 percent range, and there are 5,600 members of the individual ready reserve. That number has already been laid out by the Pentagon and those people are in particular specialties, 800 of them have been called up. More will be called up as time goes on. And in November or December there will be another blue print because there is a blueprint laid down every 180 days, and it will maintain approximately the same number of people, 135,000 to 140,000 personnel in Iraq. And it will maintain approximately the same Reserve to active duty proportion.

So that is the game plan that has been laid out in front of the entire Nation by DOD. There has not been any attempt to hide it, to delay it, to wait for the election before they laid it out. And in another 4 or 5 months they will lay out the next 180-day plan, and 180 days from then they will lay out the next plan.

That is the means of notifying the country so that units and individual families and personnel in the armed services can have plenty of notice.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS AND THE PENDING ELECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for half the time to midnight, or 43 minutes.

MS. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand this evening to continue the Congressional Black Caucus Special Orders and discussion with our colleagues on the pending election that will be held this year on November 2, 2004; to speak to my colleagues about