

allowed the al Qaeda leader to flee to the shadowy hinterlands between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Early in 2002, with bin Laden still on the loose, President Bush turned his attention to Iraq. Citing the threat of Iraq's nuclear weapons program and Saddam Hussein's links to al Qaeda, Bush marshaled a war resolution through Congress.

Resolve, however, was not enough to win the support of the United Nations; so our President, determined to stop Iraq's supposed nuclear threat, went to Iraq with the support of only a loose and fragmented coalition of other countries.

Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, no weapons of mass destruction have been found and no evidence has ever linked Saddam Hussein to al Qaeda. Still, the President's handlers point to his resolve as a source of strength. Strength for whom? The terrorists who have escaped from America's grasp as we shamefully turned our attention to Iraq? The leaders of Iran and North Korea who continue to develop the deadliest weapons known to man? Resolve, as thousands of insurgents savagely attack our soldiers and Iraqi civilians? Resolve, as more than 1,000 American soldiers and at least 13,000 innocent Iraqi civilians are killed in Iraq? And let us not forget about the more than 7,000 U.S. soldiers who have been gravely wounded. Where is the resolve to protect our troops?

I, for one, am sick and tired of the White House calling it resolve when President Bush continues to focus on Iraq at the expense of other, more important issues.

Today the House voted to reallocate \$3.4 billion of last year's \$18.4 billion supplemental, using it for military purposes instead of for Iraq's reconstruction. So now we are forced to pilfer money that is supposed to pay for infrastructure needs for the Iraqi people.

This, after spending less than \$2 billion of the \$18.4 billion allocated for Iraq's reconstruction in the first place. I do not consider that resolve; I consider it malignant neglect of an entire country's needs.

There has to be a better way to handle the quagmire in Iraq. That is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism.

SMART security treats war as an absolute last resort. It fights terrorism with stronger intelligence and multilateral partnerships, and it controls the spread of weapons of mass destruction with aggressive diplomacy, strong regional security arrangements, and vigorous inspection regimes.

If we had pursued a SMART security strategy in the first place, America would not be embroiled in this violent situation in Iraq. Let us not forget that Saddam Hussein did not have a nuclear weapons program and Iraq did not have ties to al Qaeda. Instead of blindly fo-

cusing our country's resources on a conflict that has nothing to do with American security, President Bush should take off his blinders and focus on the real threats to our country.

How can we be secure if our public schools are failing our children and 40 million Americans lack health insurance? How can we be secure when our President's shameful tax cuts force our children to repay America's debt for the next several decades?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE JUDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, the previous speaker makes me want to spend my next few minutes talking about another subject. I guess what I need to do is just totally say that I am sorry to be in the same room with some of those remarks, but I will stay on my subject tonight, because I rise tonight to begin a discussion of the "number one Judicial Hellhole" for 2003, as named by the American Tort Reform Association.

A year ago, prior to a long list of complaints I received from Georgia companies, I had never heard of the place known as Madison County, Illinois. Now that has changed within the last year; and from the facts that I have heard, it seems that the judges of all people of Madison county regularly apply the civil laws in an unfair manner and violate the fundamental constitutional rights of defendants, particularly those that hail from other States. One might wonder why a person from Georgia would be complaining about judges in Illinois. Well, the reason is they are affecting my constituents and the citizens of my State.

Madam Speaker, I could not sit on these complaints from good Georgia companies any longer. I sent a letter to Attorney General Ashcroft on September 10 asking for a formal investigation of Madison County.

Little did I know that this letter would send the attorneys of Madison County into complete temper tantrums. It should. They are guilty of lining their pockets at the expense of their clients. Yes, at the expense of their clients. And perhaps, Madam Speaker, one of the most guilty is Randall Bono.

Mr. Bono's law firm, Simmons-Cooper, generated over \$1 billion in settlements in 2003. Somewhere between 30 to 40 percent of those settlements were

kept by that firm. The public service that Mr. Bono has offered in his career includes two lawsuits against Ameritech. He walked away with \$16 million. His clients each got a \$5 phone card.

Contrary to the comments Mr. Bono made during his tantrum, my only motivation is to protect the companies of Georgia from frivolous lawsuits. Not only do those frivolous lawsuits triple car insurance rates for the people living in and around Madison County, they also send doctors fleeing from the region and, of the greatest concern to me, they force American companies to close up shops and take good American jobs overseas to avoid such harassments.

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These kind of illegal shenanigans do cause outsourcing of jobs. We are all suffering, and for what? To line the pockets of lawyers like Bono?

The letter I sent to Attorney General Ashcroft is five and a half pages full of cases where defendants' constitutional rights to due process have been violated. I can take all night reviewing them, and I will outline them over the coming weeks. However, what I want to outline here is a possible reason why Madison County has become such a judicial hellhole.

Between 1980 and 2002, 90 percent of the contributions made to Madison County judicial candidates came from plaintiffs' lawyers. Judges have received tens of thousands of dollars in contributions, even in the years that they are unopposed. Several plaintiffs' firms with no Madison County office have contributed money to Madison County judicial campaigns.

Madam Speaker, I have a strong belief that when Attorney General Ashcroft looks into the situation in Madison County, he is going to find that the cases I have outlined are just the tip of the iceberg.

I take it very personally when judges try to legislate from the bench. I take it even more personally when they overreach their power and steal from good companies in Georgia.

This will be an ongoing thing, Madam Speaker. I will report to my colleagues every night of how we are doing in the hellhole of the United States, Madison County, where the judges and plaintiffs' lawyers are stealing from the people.

#### NAMING POST OFFICES SHOULD NOT TAKE PRIORITY OVER BASIC CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague beforehand who spoke, and I am pleased to be here in the chamber when he did.

Yesterday, on the subject of the marriage amendment and D.C. gun-rights bill, the House majority leader said yesterday, "It is our job to make the laws in this country, and as easy as life would be for us if the most controversial bill we had to vote on was to rename a post office, that's not what we were elected to do."

I find the majority leader's comments almost ironic. I have done some research.

This Republican-led Congress, the 108th, the House and Senate, has been hard at work naming post offices. In fact, more post offices were named in this Congress than ever in the history of the Congress. In fact, under the Republican leadership, we have named an impressive 94 post offices, just three last night. We have also named 22 Federal buildings, passed 34 resolutions honoring athletic teams, introduced 35 resolutions creating commemorative postage stamps, recognized the Garden Club of America, recognized the importance of music education and authorized the use of the Capitol grounds for the soap box derby.

This is in stark contrast to when the Republicans first took control of the House in the 104th Congress. They only managed to name 12 post offices, compared to 94 this Congress. The 106th only squeaked out a pitiful three resolutions honoring sports achievements.

Without question, this Congress has proved that it is the most adept at naming post offices and Federal buildings, honoring sports achievements and conceiving of new postage stamps of any Congress in the history of the United States.

It takes a lot of time and effort to name a post office. First, you have to decide which post office to name. This is not an easy task. Then you have to pick a name, build support for it back home among your constituents and among your colleagues. The final test is to get a vote on the name, which is no small feat when you consider only one out of every 100 bills ever sees a floor vote.

However, in this Republican-led Congress, 80 percent of the post office naming bills introduced in the House have actually been passed. That is a record to be proud of.

But while we have spent all this time naming post offices, we could have been dealing with the problems some of the American people are facing.

While Congress worked on the backlog of nameless post offices, we have lost 1.7 million jobs here in America; median household incomes fell by more than \$1,500; household bankruptcies have sky-rocketed by over a third in the last 2 years; and health care costs are rising at three times the rate of inflation; and 5 million more Americans find themselves without health insurance, for a record 44 million Americans.

More than 1,000 Americans have been killed in action in Iraq. Reconstruction has been pushed to the sidelines be-

cause of mounting violence, and we have not found any weapons of mass destruction or called oversight hearings in this Congress about why we went to war on that premise.

President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose." Unfortunately for us and unfortunately for the country, this Republican Congress has made some very tough choices.

Time after time, the Republican leadership has been forced to choose between naming post offices and using its control of the House, the Senate, the White House and the Supreme Court to improve the lives of millions of Americans. More often than not, they chose to name post offices.

Please do not misunderstand; I am not opposed to naming post offices. In fact, I have cosponsored a few pieces of resolutions naming post offices myself. Congress should do these things, but we should not do it at the expense of other activities and other responsibilities.

We should not use it as an excuse not to deal with the health care crisis in America; not to deal with the higher education crisis in America; not to deal with the stagnant wages and income in America; not to deal with a war for which we do not have an effective policy and a President who does not know it is a burning morass, as three Republican Senators said just last week; nor should we use them as excuses for failing at our most basic responsibilities.

It is now past 7 months before we passed a budget resolution, which is a responsibility of Congress. We have not done it. We have only passed one of the 13 appropriations bills we are required to pass. We have not passed a higher education reauthorization act required by law this year. We have failed to reauthorize a series of laws. We have not yet passed the highway and mass transit bill which employs billions of Americans in good paying jobs and guides this economy, and yet we have taken the responsibility with precious time that we are here to name 94 new post offices.

Our Nation and economy rely on the most basic functions of Congress. Yet, this Congress, the Republican Congress, has failed on both. We can do better. Congress can name post offices and keep our Nation moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, election day is only weeks away. I hope, when Americans go to the polls, they will reflect on what kind of job this Congress has done. Republican leadership has made their priorities clear, and that is for new post offices and the naming of new post offices in America.

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

(Mr. HENSARLING 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 gen-

tleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed out of order and address the House for 5 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

#### THE NEED FOR MORE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF RISK OF ACCUTANE

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to inform the American public on the safety concerns of Accutane. Accutane is a dangerous, powerful prescription drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1982 to treat severe, recalcitrant, nodular acne that is unresponsive to conventional treatments, including antibiotics. Today, approximately 1.5 million prescriptions are written each year to hundreds of thousands of young people.

The horrific birth defects associated with Accutane are well-known and understood. The psychiatric effects associated with the drug, including depression, suicidal thoughts and behavior, suicide and aggression are less known and are denied by its manufacturer, drug company giant Hoffman-LaRoche.

Tonight, I want to share the results of a study that sheds light on these psychiatric effects. Dr. J.D. Bremner of Emory University recently completed a study which demonstrated that Accutane affects the metabolism of the orbitofrontal cortex, a brain area known to mediate symptoms of depression. If you look at this chart, Dr. Bremner had two PET scans, the baseline PET scan before the patient began Accutane therapy and 4 months into the Accutane therapy. Even my inexperienced eyes can tell the difference, and Dr. Bremner will present his findings in November to a convention of psychiatrists studying this issue.

For every question Dr. Bremner's work may answer, there are other questions that need to be answered about the psychiatric effects of these drugs. These scans show the promise more research can hold.

If you take a look at these, you can see there is a 21 percent change in the metabolism of the front orbitofrontal cortex. These scans show the promise of more research, and Hoffman-LaRoche has always denied that Accutane affects the brain. We know this is not true, as the PET scans show. This person had a 21 percent change in