

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

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

TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I heard a very disturbing report today. While we are engaging in a very important and legitimate debate about our strategy in Iraq, one thing for sure we ought to be united on, and that is Americans ought to have access to the truth and not to be the subject of spin by their own government and should not have their own government suppressing the truth about Iraq. Things are difficult enough about Iraq without the Federal Government suppressing the truth about Iraq.

Unfortunately, that appears to be what is going on in this administration. Today in the Washington Post an article related that the USAID ordered the restriction of preventing distribution of reports by the contractor Kroll Security International which had previously shown that the number of daily attacks by insurgents in Iraq had increased significantly. In response to the news that these insurgent attacks are increasing, about 5 weeks before this election, this administration decided apparently to suppress that information and the agency ordered that this information no longer be disseminated to the American public.

This is information generated with U.S. American taxpayer dollars that this administration, 5 weeks before the election, does not want the American people to hear about.

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The article in The Washington Post says: "The Kroll reports suggest a broad and intensifying campaign of insurgent violence." In response to that bad news, the agency official at USAID sent an e-mail to congressional aides stating, "This is the last Kroll report to come in. After The Washington Post story, they shut it down in order to regroup. I'll let you know when it restarts."

There is no excuse for this administration shielding information about Iraq and the fact that we have great difficulties there from the American people. We have a legitimate right to know this information. We have an important debate in our national body politic to figure out the right strategy in Iraq, and it is wrong to suppress this information.

We cannot decide the right decision in Iraq by looking through rose-colored glasses anymore. Hope is not a strategy. Simply saying we are going to have the same old, same old in Iraq and

shield and hide the ball from the American people just will not cut it. Tonight it would be nice if the administration and the President admitted that we have some difficulties in Iraq and admitted we need to make some changes in strategy or we are going to have deep trouble.

But this is not the only symptom of an administration that is refusing to face reality in Iraq. In that same story in The Washington Post, I read that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's office is now sponsoring a sort of happy talk, good news tour through our bases and that we are using taxpayers' money to bring Iraqis to spread the good news of Iraq to our military bases here in this country. The memo disclosing this tour paid for by taxpayer dollars says it is "designed to be uplifting accounts with good news messages." Rumsfeld's office, which will pay for the tour, recommends that the installations seek local news coverage, noting that "these events and presentations are positive public relations opportunities." We do not need a public relations campaign. We need a campaign for success in bringing our troops home in Iraq. We are not getting that from this administration.

The memo went on to suggest that the commanders at each base "are in the best position on how to market this voluntary attendance program effectively." We do not need a marketing campaign. We need an honest discussion of how to get a strategy to bring our troops home after success. But that is not what we are getting from this administration. Instead of recognizing and coming clean with the American people about their failures to find weapons of mass destruction, their failures to tell the accurate situation about connections with al Qaeda, their failures to have enough troops on the ground, their failures to have enough body armor, they have given us a marketing technique protocol paid for with taxpayer dollars. It is wrong. We need a strategy, not a marketing campaign.

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

(Mr. RYAN 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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

9/11 COMMISSION LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have spent a number of hours on the floor of the House discussing issues that hold a great deal of emotion for many people around this Nation. With that said, I offer my respect for the different views that were expressed on the floor of the House, driven with emotion and passion, driven by your personal faith, and others as myself driven by the sanctity of our Constitution and the desire to preserve this Union.

It is interesting that the Republican majority would offer this debate at this time. There is no doubt that voices of the American people must be heard. But at the same time, an enormous responsibility of ensuring the safety and the protection of the American people by passing the 9/11 Commission recommendations through the Collins-Lieberman-McCain bill along with the House provision of the Shays-Maloney bill goes unattended. So what we have is a mishmash of provisions that have really nothing to do with the security of this Nation.

When we found that the CIA had, in fact, provided intelligence to this administration that if we went to war the insurgent aftermath, the efforts of the insurgents, the violence that would be perpetrated after any battle or war would be claimed over would be almost insurmountable. Yet because of the meshing of those disciplines, if you will, the complete glove-and-hand relationship between the CIA director, apparently that intelligence was ignored, and maybe because the CIA director failed to understand that his allegiance was really to the American people and not, in fact, to a single head of government.

The American people should have known that this intelligence ultimately was going to undermine any victory that was given or had by our brave men and women who were on the front lines for us, Reservists, National Guard, enlisted personnel, already doomed because of the fact that intelligence said that it was the insurgent action that was going to undermine peace and security and freedom in Iraq.

And lo and behold, here we are today with an insurgent movement, a terrorist movement that has overtaken Baghdad and Iraq. Yet this administration has no policy, has no exit strategy, has no relief, not only for the Iraqi people but for the American people. And while Baghdad is burning, we are refusing to take up the 9/11 Commission report.

All day yesterday in the Committee on the Judiciary, all we had was extraneous law enforcement matters that could be defended and could be promoted and argued and promoted at another time, extraneous immigration policies that had no place in a bill that is dealing with the safety and security of the United States of America, the immediacy of the 9/11 report.

And what was it? It was to establish a new structure of intelligence, to provide the leader of the intelligence community with budgetary authority. And what did our friends in the 9/11 legislation do? They argued against giving budgetary authority. With no budgetary authority, you have no authority because you cannot move intelligence resources where they are needed. And here we are ignoring the families of the 9/11 victims who have waited for 3 years for us to move forward with the necessary security.

Do you know why intelligence is so important, Madam Speaker? Because it was the FBI who had information already on their desk in the Midwest that told them that there were individuals in this country taking flying lessons, learning to take off but not learning to land; and the information never got off the desk into Washington, D.C. That is why the tragedy of 9/11 occurred.

Those individuals came into this country illegally. We have fixed that problem. We have worked to fix and improve the technology. The State Department has put in new criteria where visas are issued. We are working to stop terrorists before they come into our homeland. But unfortunately we have a debate as to whether the Select Committee on Homeland Security should even continue, when we know that Secretary Ridge said he wants a steady, organized, focused committee to deal with homeland security issues rather than the tens of tens that he has to go to. Is that securing America?

But on the politics of this Republican government, President, Senate, House, rather than deal with the serious issues, we are now taking away rights of Americans, trying to pass the PATRIOT Act, trying to pass in the bill that is supposed to be the 9/11 Commission report something that was never raised by the 9/11 Commission. We are now giving employers the right to call the Department of Justice on people's backgrounds. We are now putting that into place. Not just security officers, which I perfectly support, but anybody that is trying to cook hamburgers at McDonald's. That is not a function of the Department of Justice massively as it is. Yes, single isolated cases in circumstances where the necessity of knowing the background may be the requirement of the employment, but this is an outrage.

Then, of course, as I close, Madam Speaker, they then want to obliterate the Constitution and the very values of this country by sending individuals who are barely charged with ideas of terrorism into places where they might be tortured, not even convicted but maybe speculated that they may be associated with such and we are going to obliterate our values and send them home or send them someplace to be tortured.

This is what we have done this week, Madam Speaker, and I would just argue that we can do better. I would ask that

the homeland security 9/11 Commission recommendations be placed into law by this body.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the week of September 28 on account of official business.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 4:00 p.m. on account of a family commitment.

Mr. GUTKNECHT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 4:00 p.m. on account of attending his daughter's wedding.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

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

Mr. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. INSLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1601. An act to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to provide for the reporting and reduction of child abuse and family violence incidences on Indian reservations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources; in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 2436. An act to reauthorize the Native American Programs Act of 1974; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

S. 2639. An act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

S. Con. Res. 110. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of the ongoing work of the Organization for Se-

curity and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in combating anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, discrimination, intolerance, and related violence; to the Committee on International Relations.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4654. An act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5149. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through March 31, 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5183. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

H.J. Res. 107. Joint Resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, October 4, 2004, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

9896. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determination — received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9897. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-P-7636] received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9898. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9899. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Assistance to Private Sector Property Insurers (RIN: 1660-AA28) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9900. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.