

rewritten. History cannot be written because no one has allowed the facts to be assembled.

That is what we are talking about here. We have tried, but we have been blocked repeatedly in our attempts to do so.

This matter is of critical importance. And it is, of course, ironic that at a time when we are fighting a war in the name of democracy and the freedoms, including freedom of speech and freedom of inquiry, that here we are stymied in our freedom of inquiry.

And it is freedom of inquiry not for political points or our personal curiosity. It is so that we can, for the future, have an intelligence system that is based on critical thinking, skeptical thinking and good methods. That is the point.

Let me just say that the line that we hear is, "There is not much that needs to be investigated, there is not much need for oversight, because you knew all this all along. And furthermore, it is unpatriotic."

It is unimportant, and yet if you ask for it, you are unpatriotic. I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, you can't have it both ways.

I wish I could say that the refusal to investigate the Iraq intelligence failure is an isolated case. It is not.

For over 2 years, I've pressed this House to investigate how it was that the name and cover status of a serving CIA Clandestine Services officer made its way from the CIA to the White House political office and thence to the press.

Eight separate times in eight separate votes, the leadership of this Congress shut down any effort to get the information about the release of the identity of an intelligence employee. Conducting oversight of this matter is something that is central to our responsibility to look after the wellbeing and effectiveness of those people that we ask to take risks for us around the world.

Yet in eight separate votes, it was shut down.

Mr. Speaker, it's time—indeed well past time—for this Congress to do its job and conduct oversight of these and other intelligence matters. We cannot protect our Nation from future threats if we do not learn the full lessons of conflicts past, and this is especially critical in the realm of intelligence. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in this effort.

HONORING THE GARLAND LAKESIDE ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Garland Lakeside Rotary Club for their 30 years of service to Dallas County. Throughout its history, the Garland Lakeside Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Garland Lakeside Rotary Club is in the process of raising funds and building a medical clinic called the Friendship House. In the past they have supported local charities, including the Salvation Army and the YMCA. Each year they work with Garland Independent School District to provide underprivileged children with Christmas gifts.

Through these initiatives, the Garland Lakeside Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, some of the cuts proposed in this "Deficit Reduction Act" include Medicaid, student loans, child support enforcement, child foster care, supplemental security income, farm conservation, and many more.

Republicans have offered over \$50 billion in cuts to much needed programs for America's families. The pretext of these program cuts is to bring down the deficit, but all they do is offset the cost of a \$56.6 billion tax cut package that will come to the floor of the House soon. Do not be misled into believing that the budget cuts being contemplated are to cover the cost of rebuilding the Gulf Coast states. They are being used to offset the raid that is taking place on the Treasury.

The Republicans are employing a two-pronged strategy for this fiscal charade. Today they want us to vote on \$50 billion in spending cuts and later they will ask us to vote on a \$50 billion tax cut for the wealthiest top one-tenth of one percent of Americans. It is their hope that the American people will not see the connection between the two actions. Show the people that you are cutting spending on one hand; then cut taxes for your supporters with the other. That is their game. I am appalled the Republicans will cut programs for children, the hungry, the sick and the vulnerable for tax cuts to the healthiest and wealthiest Americans.

Since 2001, the Republicans have done an excellent job of spinning their tax cut packages. They said we could have it all: Medicare prescription drug coverage, the War on Terrorism, huge tax cuts, and still produce budget surpluses as far as the eye can see. It is a great pitch, but there is only one hitch to their argument: it did not happen that way. Now Republicans are doing all they can to dodge the responsibility for the fiscal situation in which the country now finds itself. In fact, the President and my Republican colleagues take pride that last year's budget deficit was \$320 billion, the third largest deficit in history. They

take it as a record of accomplishment that the deficit was not higher. Now that is spin. Last year's deficit may be lower than the \$412 billion deficit reached in fiscal year 2004, but that hardly entitles the Republicans to bragging rights over their fiscal stewardship. Under their leadership, a Republican president and Republican Congress have produced a string of record setting budget deficits.

By bringing this bill to the floor, the folk on the other side of the aisle have the temerity to say that the program cuts being recommended will offset the cost of added spending for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That argument is not even close to the truth. That is budgeteering by Merlin the Magician. I hope the American people will be able to look behind the curtain of their arguments and see them for what they are: simply a means to hide from their record of fiscal irresponsibility.

The President and the Republican majority are adept. Record deficits? Not the fault of the party in power. Blame 9/11, or blame the economy, or blame Katrina, or blame Saddam Hussein and Iraq, or blame the terrorists, or blame whatever. Just do not blame the Republicans or the Republican tax cuts for the horrible financial situation our country is in. That is the gist of the Republican message we hear today.

For a President and a party that is artful in avoiding blame for the country's fiscal state, for the failure to execute a successful war strategy in Iraq, the failure to respond rapidly during Hurricane Katrina, the failure to catch Osama bin Laden, the failure to find weapons of mass destruction, the failure to provide affordable energy, the failure to hire competent people to handle crises, the failure to prepare for a possible bird flu pandemic, for all the failures that have occurred on the watch of this President and this Republican Congress, can there be little reason why they want to avoid the "blame game"?

We can do better. There is no reason why we freely spend to rebuild Baghdad but struggle to rebuild Biloxi. When it comes to taking care of our own, where is the parity? Why are we applying a tougher standard on our own than we are in Afghanistan and Iraq? The budget cuts that will be triggered under this bill violates the principle of parity, it puts the welfare of others ahead of our own American people. This budget is symbolic of the spending priorities of this administration: It puts America and Americans last. That is a shame and that is why this bill does not deserve our support. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting down this unfortunate bill.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACKS IN JORDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mrs. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 456, a resolution to vehemently condemn the terrorist attacks that occurred in Amman, Jordan.

On November 9, 2005, hundreds of innocent Jordanians gathered to celebrate a wedding ceremony—one of the greatest tributes to

life, family and humanity, for virtually every culture in the world. Yet what was supposed to be a joyous celebration was brutally cut short when followers of the terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi carried out four simultaneous terrorist attacks. These unbridled and hateful acts killed 59 people, including the mother and father of the bride and the father of the groom.

Mr. Speaker, the line between good and evil could not be clearer.

The line between those who cherish life versus those who seek to destroy it could not be clearer.

The line between those with compassion in their hearts versus those with hatred could not be clearer.

The attacks in Jordan, just like those before it in Indonesia, Egypt, Spain and the United States, demonstrate that terrorism does not discriminate by race, ethnicity or region. Instead, terrorists indiscriminately target those seeking to live a peaceful, loving and free life.

All across Jordan, innocent and freedom-loving Jordanians fully understand this. Thousands of Jordanians have taken to the streets in protest of Zarqawi, "the coward." In the wake of these attacks, King Abdullah has announced a "National Agenda," which seeks to instill a more free and democratic political process and society.

We must hunt the terrorists down and kill them. There is no other way to respond to those so committed to the destruction of life. We must also stand with the Jordanian people and the Jordanian Government. And, this resolution does just that—making it clear that Congress and the American people are behind them during this difficult period.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST MARK THOMPSON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of my extraordinary constituents who is currently serving in Iraq. Specialist Mark Thompson from Tompkinsville, Kentucky recently wrote to me to express his thoughts on the situation in Iraq and I was truly moved by his articulate letter. I would like to share his letter with the House and I urge all of my colleagues to read Mark's letter and poem. I could not be anymore proud of Specialist Thompson and his service to our country.

OCTOBER 17, 2005.

Congressman ED WHITFIELD,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WHITFIELD: I hope this letter finds you well. Politics seems heated as usual in the States and many new challenges are facing you and our country's other leaders. However, I am sure you are taking it all as it comes and continuing to try and find the most appropriate direction as issues arise.

I am currently serving in the Army at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq. A huge change from my position as hospital administrator in Tompkinsville as you can imagine. But it has been a good experience to actually be here in this very troubled part of the World and be a part of this, first hand.

We are in the "Sunni Triangle" as this area has been described with a name. Ramadi

and Fallujah are within 10 to 15 miles of our base with us roughly in the middle. Both are noted hotbeds for insurgent activity as is this entire area of Northwest Iraq. We are experiencing much of the same that you see on TV back home.

I am sure one of those huge issues you are grappling with is what to support in regards to Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask you to consider we are still making progress and this is a worthy cause at this point. We do far more good on a daily basis than is ever portrayed back home. Just Saturday (Day of the Voting) our troops helped a very sick 4 month old child get medical care in Baghdad. Also, we are actively training Iraqi troops to ultimately replace us and takeover complete operations of Camp Habbaniyah. Yes, there is much to be discouraged by on a regular basis but the momentum and atmosphere as a whole continues moving forward. The worst thing we can do is leave too soon and risk losing it all to civil war. At the same time we must let the Iraqi Army continue to take over responsibility for areas as soon as possible and the new government as well.

I see it like welfare. If we take on the responsibility for people too long they can literally fail to progress and be hampered by growing too dependent. We see that very real, negative potential as we work with soldiers and civilians.

The hard part is how much and when to pull back our support. I know that is something you are being challenged to help determine. Please, listen to sound military leaders as you sort that out. Please do not allow it to be a "public opinion" or "politically correct" decision. We stand to lose so much more from a bad decision. The Iraqi people stand to lose the most.

Finally, the vast majority of the people here are very worthy of what we are trying to help them achieve. It is the few that continue to make it so hard. I have attached a simple poem that I was inspired to write not long after coming here. I still believe that our primary intentions should be this simple and straight forward.

My best wishes to you as always.

Sincerely,

SPC. MARK THOMPSON.

THAT IS WHY WE CAME

As we crossed the Iraqi Border,
our lives never to be the same.
That's when it all seemed clearer,
why we left our families and came.
The harsh land layout before us,
with things we have yet to see.
But kids waving on roadsides,
unlocked hope inside for me.
Not much do they have and own,
but gestures that tell their soul,
Too young yet to know true hate,
faith, hope and love are still in control.
Who knows where freedom will take them,
and will elders allow it to last?
Can they hold onto it with passion,
and never repeat the past?

It is the children we came for,
their love should govern this land.
Who knows where their dreams can take us,
if not poisoned with History's Brand.
I pray tonight for a new World,
where all kids are safe from harm.
That these children can play like mine,
in a neighborhood, friendly and warm.
They are the reason we came,
their hope from faith we must let soar.
With love let's finish the task,
and for them leave open the door.

HONORING BAYLOR UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the first adult liver transplant program serving Tarrant County and Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. In 1985, Baylor University Medical Center recruited Dr. Goran B. Klintmalm, a highly skilled surgeon to begin the new adult liver transplant program and to enhance each facility's medical and surgical capabilities.

Baylor University Medical Center has transplanted more than 4,500 organs in patients around the world. The program has been replicated at Baylor All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, allowing Baylor Health Care Systems to expand their services to Tarrant County.

I would like to honor Baylor University Medical Center, along with the doctors, nurses and hospital administration that make extraordinary organ transplants possible. Their dedication to the medical profession and their commitment to saving lives is to be commended.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KENNETH "BLUE" BALCOMB—A FIERCE DEFENDER OF WATER RIGHTS IN COLORADO

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the Balcomb family of Glenwood Springs, Colorado who recently experienced a tragic loss with the death of Kenneth "Blue" Balcomb. He passed away on November 17th.

Recently, I had the opportunity to get to know Ken. He was a brilliant, devoted and talented person. Because of his genius, water on the Western Slope of Colorado will be protected for generations. Mr. Balcomb died Thursday and will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Ken Balcomb was General Counsel for the Colorado River Water Conservation District from the early 1960s until 1981 when the District hired in-house counsel. Under Mr. Balcomb's advice and leadership, the River District successfully fought back aggressive water filings by Front Range cities and irrigation districts thirsting for West Slope water. It also fought federal intrusion into Colorado's state-run water rights system, ensuring that the federal government adjudicate its water rights like everyone else through Colorado's water courts. On this point, Mr. Balcomb represented the River District on three occasions before the U.S. Supreme Court, leaving victorious each time.

I grew to know Ken over the last year and he never hesitated to offer his experience, knowledge and assistance to myself and others.

Ken was certainly an inspiration to me and to everyone who had the opportunity to meet