

of senior U.S. officials. They argued that the disclosure might disrupt counterterrorism efforts in those countries and elsewhere and could make them targets of possible terrorist retaliation.

The secret detention system was conceived in the chaotic and anxious first months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when the working assumption was that a second strike was imminent.

Since then, the arrangement has been increasingly debated within the CIA, where considerable concern lingers about the legality, morality and practicality of holding even unrepentant terrorists in such isolation and secrecy, perhaps for the duration of their lives. Mid-level and senior CIA officers began arguing two years ago that the system was unsustainable and diverted the agency from its unique espionage mission.

"We never sat down, as far as I know, and came up with a grand strategy," said one former senior intelligence officer who is familiar with the program but not the location of the prisons. "Everything was very reactive. That's how you get to a situation where you pick people up, send them into a netherworld and don't say, 'What are we going to do with them afterwards?'"

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT).

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this Congress ought to support Mr. Skelton's motion because the reason we are here is that the United States Congress has refused to use its power of oversight to look at what we have been doing overseas. Have we had hearings about Abu Ghraib? Have we had hearings about secret prisons in Romania, in Poland, or wherever?

The Republican leadership of the House says we are not going to look. We simply will hold our hands over our eyes and we will not look out there to see what is going on. Unfortunately, there is the rest of the world. There is the Guardian newspaper, there are newspapers in France and Germany and all over the place looking at this information, and it is now worldwide known what we are doing. Yet the Congress walks around here, see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.

This Congress has abrogated, you have given up your responsibility of oversight. Mr. SKELTON brings out a simple amendment that says, let's follow the Senate, which has gotten up on their hind legs and said, let's have some oversight in what we're doing, and suddenly you guys object.

It is clear what you don't want people to know. You don't want the people to know what went on in the Vice President's office or in the White House or what was going on when the Attorney General—

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCDERMOTT. No, I am not going to yield. You don't know how to play the game. You have got to learn the rules.

When you let the Attorney General of the United States say that torture in certain circumstances is probably all

right, man, you have opened the door to disrepute.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. MCHUGH. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). The gentleman may state his inquiry.

Mr. MCHUGH. The gentleman from Washington suggested I did not know the rules. Is it not within the rules for a Member to ask another Member to yield?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is within the rules for a gentleman to ask another gentleman to yield.

Mr. MCHUGH. So in the context of the gentleman's response, I did know the rules; is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. MCHUGH. I thank the Speaker.

□ 2300

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate of the United States passed a section to which I would like to have as a centerpiece in my motion to instruct conferees to adopt. By a vote of 82-9 the Senate adopted this amendment which was offered by the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

I do not understand why some people do not want to learn the truth. That is what this is. It is an attempt to have a provision that allows us in the Congress of the United States, both the House and the Senate, under the provisions of this language to learn the truth. We do not want to learn things from the front page of a newspaper. We want to learn things as they should be properly reported to us from the White House which this motion to instruct would require. It is that simple.

The other side seems to wish to confuse the issue which causes me to scratch my head as to why they oppose this motion to instruct. It is clear-cut. A huge majority of the Senators, both parties, voted in favor thereof in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of my motion to instruct, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Skelton motion to instruct. Two years ago, the image of the United States was tarnished by photographs of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib. The photographs drew condemnation from members of Congress, the American people, and the world. At a time when we were professing American values, these photographs told a story of secrecy and disgusting abuse.

That's why the Washington Post's revelations about the CIA's clandestine detention facilities last month are so troubling. We all understand the difficult job our interrogators have in trying to pry useful intelligence from tough, hostile prisoners. We all believe that the vast majority of our interrogators perform their jobs admirably and within the rules, and the information they have obtained has served as the intelligence foundation of our War on Terror. But at a time when the wounds of Abu Ghraib

have still not fully healed, fresh allegations of secrecy and questions about interrogation have the potential to reopen old issues of abuse that we have struggled for months to put to rest.

The President has said that "we do not torture" prisoners, and I take him at his word, but we have the right to ask for answers about clandestine facilities supplied, of course, in classified form.

The Skelton motion to instruct simply calls on the President to disclose to the Congress the nature, cost, location and operations of the detention facilities referenced by the Post, and the ultimate disposition of the detainees that are held there. This would in no way hinder the effectiveness of interrogations, but it would go a long way toward showing the world we are serious about preventing prisoner abuse. As Senator McCain so eloquently said, "We are Americans. We hold ourselves to humane standards of treatment of people, no matter how evil or terrible they may be . . . The enemy we fight has no respect for human life or human rights. They don't deserve our sympathy. But this isn't about who they are; this is about who we are. These are the values that distinguish us from our enemies." I urge my colleagues to support the Skelton motion to instruct. All it seeks is information to which we are already entitled under Title 50 of the U.S. Code, and information we need to fulfill our duties under Article I, Clause 8 of the Constitution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 334

In the Senate of the United States, December 15, 2005.

Whereas William Proxmire served in the Military Intelligence Service of the United States Army from 1941 to 1946;

Whereas William Proxmire served the people of Wisconsin with distinction from 1957 to 1989 in the United States Senate;

Whereas William Proxmire served the Senate as Chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs in the ninety-fourth to ninety-sixth and one hundredth Congresses;

Whereas William Proxmire held the longest unbroken record for roll call votes in the Senate;

Whereas William Proxmire tirelessly fought government waste, issuing monthly

“Golden Fleece” awards beginning in 1975 for the “biggest or most ridiculous or most ironic example of government waste;”

Whereas William Proxmire worked endlessly to eradicate the world of genocide, culminating in the ratification by the Senate of an international treaty outlawing genocide;

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable William Proxmire, former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable William Proxmire.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4324. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster mitigation program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4436. An act to provide certain authorities for the Department of State, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 218. Concurrent resolution recognizing the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States and acknowledging the contributions of our Filipino-American community to our country over the last century.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles:

S. 1390. An act to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 2116. An act to transfer jurisdiction of certain real property to the Supreme Court.

CERTIFYING EXPORT OF CERTAIN MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-74)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify that the export of 36 accelerometers to the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Railways, for use in a railroad track geometry measuring system, is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such export, will not measurably improve the missile or

space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House, December 14, 2005.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY HURRICANE RELIEF FUND

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts of Joe St. Clair, Tom Jarboe, and Donald Cropp, founders of the St. Mary's Hurricane Relief Fund. That is the county in which I live.

Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, these three men organized the St. Mary's Hurricane Relief Fund to help the victims of the storm in the small town of D'Iberville, Mississippi, located in the district of my friend, Congressman Gene Taylor.

This October, Joe, Tom and Don drove two tractor trailers stocked with needed school supplies, book bags and other goods the entire way to D'Iberville. These items were collected with the assistance of countless St. Mary's County businesses and volunteers. Literally, tens of thousands of dollars of contributions.

The Hurricane Relief Fund's work to help D'Iberville did not stop when they returned to St. Mary's County. Since their initial trip, the St. Mary's Hurricane Relief Fund has organized an Adopt A Kid Campaign to ensure that the children of D'Iberville had the resources that they needed, facilitated stationing a medical team in D'Iberville, sent educational supplies to Sacred Heart Catholic School, sent 80 first-aid kits to D'Iberville Health Care Clinic and worked to fulfill the needs of the community as requested by D'Iberville officials.

This December, Joe, Tom and Don organized another massive donation drive, Operation Mississippi Christmas, this time to ensure that no child in D'Iberville went without a present.

Last Friday, I visited with the organizers and a group of volunteers at a warehouse as they loaded two additional tractor trailers bound for D'Iberville. That is four tractor trailers for these young people. I am proud I was able to participate in this noble effort by donating hundreds of duffle bags filled with gifts.

When the trucks left for the gulf coast on Saturday morning, they were loaded with more than just presents, and included among their cargo were 200 book bags loaded with school supplies, 50 additional first-aid kits, cases

of needed medical supplies for the D'Iberville clinic, quilts donated by the local Amish community, bicycles, hundreds of duffle bags, 35 complete computer systems with printers, cables, et cetera, all donated by SmartCo, defibrillator batteries and a charger donated by St. Mary's Hospital, a critical item for the medical clinic, and 1,160 Wal-Mart gift cards for the upper middle and high school students.

On Sunday afternoon, the trucks rolled into D'Iberville, completing the approximately 16 hours and 1,000 mile journey.

On Monday, D'Iberville Elementary School held a pizza party as the presents were handed out and the goods distributed to the grateful community. At the end of the day, I received a call from the group indicating they had accomplished their mission of handing something to every school child, every school child in D'Iberville.

St. Mary's Hurricane Relief Fund has organized an amazingly successful relief effort, and I applaud its hard work. I would like to personally and publicly thank you, Joe St. Clair, Joe Cropp, Tom Jarboe, Guy Curley, Reggie Townsend, Ann Raley, Vince Whittles, the St. Mary's Chamber of Commerce, Father John Ball and the St. Mary's Trinity Episcopal Parish, Technology Security Associates, Larry Wise and the folks at BAE Systems, Bo Bailey and his son Tony for driving the trucks, and the hundreds of additional contributors, volunteers and businesses that contributed St. Mary's Hurricane Relief Fund's drive to help D'Iberville, Mississippi.

I am proud that my constituents, realizing that they are part of a community bigger than St. Mary's County, have sought to help our neighbors in Mississippi during their time of need. Their efforts surely for us all symbolize the true meaning of compassion, and I think it sets a great example of giving in this holiday season.

Joe St. Clair and Don tell the story of the children and their eyes gleaming as they received these gifts. Joe St. Clair, a crusty businessman about 55 years of age, telling me the story had tears flowing down his cheeks.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of acrimony on this floor too often, and too often we forget to remember our neighbors and our friends. This is an example of the best that is America.

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

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

TODAY'S IRAQI ELECTION

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).