

Instead of maintaining a long-term military occupation in Iraq, our future efforts to help the Iraqi people should follow the smart approach: humanitarian assistance, coordinated with our international allies, to rebuild Iraq's war-torn physical and economic infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the President must create a plan to bring home the hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers fighting in Iraq, helping to secure Iraq by giving Iraq back to the Iraqis and saving the lives of thousands of American troops. We must end this long and destructive war.

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.)

RENEGOTIATING CAFTA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, at a White House news conference last week President Bush, called on this Congress to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement this summer.

This morning in this Chamber, next to me, the most powerful Republican in the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), once again promised a vote, this time by July 4. Actually, a month or so ago the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) promised that there would be a vote in May, but this time he says he actually means it.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have been speaking out against the Central American Free Trade Agreement have a message in return. Let us scrap this agreement. Clearly, this Congress does not support it. And let us renegotiate a better Central American Free Trade Agreement.

President Bush signed this agreement fully 1 year and 2 weeks ago. Every trade agreement negotiated by this administration, Morocco, Singapore, Chile, Australia, all trade agreements negotiated by this administration have been ratified by Congress within 65 days of the President affixing his signature to them. CAFTA has languished in Congress now for 54 weeks without a vote because this wrong-headed trade agreement offends Republicans and Democrats alike.

Just look at what has happened with our trade policy in the last decade. 1992, the year I ran for Congress, we had a trade deficit in this country of \$38 billion. Today, a dozen years later, last year actually, in 2004, our trade deficit was \$618 billion.

From \$38 billion, when the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and others of us in this Chamber opposed

the North American Free Trade Agreement, from \$38 billion a dozen years ago to \$618 billion today.

It is clear our trade policy is not working. Mr. Speaker, opponents of CAFTA know that it is simply an extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement, actually a dysfunctional cousin of NAFTA, which clearly did not work for our country.

Look at the chart. Look at the number of jobs we have seen lost in this country as a result of trade policy.

In the last 5 years, not all of these jobs are trade policy, but many of them are. In the last 5 years, the States in red have lost more than 20 percent of their manufacturing jobs. New York, 222,000. Pennsylvania 200,000. Ohio, 217,000. Michigan, 210,000. North and South Carolina, 306,000 combined. Alabama and Mississippi, another 125,000. State after State after State has lost hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs.

It is the same old story. Every time there is a trade agreement, every time there is a trade agreement, the President says it will mean more jobs for Americans, it will mean more exports for the U.S., it will mean more manufacturing done in our country and selling those products overseas, and the President promises it will be better wages for workers in the developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, Ben Franklin said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over again and expecting a different outcome. The President makes the same promises on NAFTA, on PNTR, on trade promotion authority, the same promises, every trade agreement. And every time it comes out exactly the opposite. That is why there is overwhelming bipartisan opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Since then, the administration and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and Republican leadership have tried every trick in the book to pass CAFTA. The administration started off by linking CAFTA to helping democracy in the developing world. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of State Zoellick both have said CAFTA will help on the war on terrorism. I am not really sure why, but they said that we need to pass this agreement with Central America to help us in the war on terrorism. But we know 10 years of NAFTA has done nothing to improve security between Mexico and the United States, so that argument simply does not sell.

In May, then, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce set up a junket for the six presidents from Central America and the Dominican Republic, taking them to Cincinnati and Los Angeles and Washington and Albuquerque and around the United States, hoping they might be able to sell the American people the press and the Congress on CAFTA. Again they failed.

Earlier this year, the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

DELAY), and the Ways and Means Chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), said there would be a vote on CAFTA by Memorial Day. Memorial Day came and went without a vote. Why? Because they did not have the votes.

Now we have a new deadline for this failed trade agreement. It is July 4th.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats, business and labor groups, farmers, ranchers, faith-based groups, the National Council of Churches, the Latin American Council of Churches, churches, business groups, religious leaders environmental groups, all have said, if CAFTA countries and the U.S. renegotiate CAFTA, we can get a better agreement next time.

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KORNER'S FOLLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MACK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a unique historic home located in Kernersville in North Carolina's fifth district. It is called Korner's Folly.

Some folks call Korner's Folly the strangest house ever built. Others say they are amazed at its resemblance to a small castle one would more likely find on the banks of the Rhine River. Everyone is certain that few houses equal its unique nature.

Upon entering the building, one walks past the "witch's corner" which is complete with fireplace and chimney. Soon, however, one learns that he or she is welcome as the house is square with entrances on each side for visitors to come and go as they wish.

Built first as a carriage house with stables, bachelor's quarters and studio, Korner's Folly stands proudly on Main Street in Kernersville, North Carolina. It was built by Jules Gilmer Korner, an artist and interior designer, who is credited with painting Bull Durham Tobacco signs in many areas of the country.

Although 1880 is given as the completion date, Mr. Korner's zeal for decorating and altering the house is evident. The stables were soon turned into a library. The reception, or ballroom, on an upper level with a 20-foot ceiling is decorated with fresco-type pictures and features two magnificent fireplaces. At the very top, one is amazed to find a theater named Cupid's Park for the paintings of cherubs on the ceiling. With 22 rooms, which have ceiling heights from under 6 feet to over 20 feet, a tour brings many surprises and attests to the creativity of the builder.

This unique building was saved from deterioration in 1971 by a group of public-spirited Kernersville citizens who purchased it and began the process of preservation and restoration. They understood the importance of preserving

this unique building as the cornerstone for tourism in the town of Kernersville. They later gave it to the North Carolina Historical Preservation Society which organized Korner's Folly, Incorporated, in order to continue its preservation.

The home now serves as a wonderful museum and a great place to visit. As the words inscribed on the sidewalk by Mr. Korner say, "Come in, you are at home."

I am proud that Korner's Folly is located in Kernersville, North Carolina, and in the Fifth Congressional District which I now represent.

MISMANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, there is a major political scandal that is unfolding in the State of Ohio; and I am sure Americans remember how important Ohio was in this recent Presidential election.

If citizens wish to know more about it, they should go to the Toledo Blade Web site, the major newspaper that has been involved in helping to put information out to the public and help Ohioans and, indeed, people in this country, understand what is happening.

In Ohio what is happening is that the Governor of our State has permitted millions and millions of dollars of workers' money from the Ohio Workers Compensation Fund to be invested in high-risk instruments, coins and we think perhaps what is called collectibles, although we are not sure yet. And these investments are ones that no other State in the Union has allowed. But what happened was that some of these so-called high-risk investments when they went to try to find them, it appears as though millions of dollars of these coins are now missing.

There is a grand jury that has been seated in Ohio now that is beginning to call people forward because some of these same individuals involved in this scandal were used to channel money to the Bush campaign in Ohio. In fact, the President of the United States has already returned \$4,000 to one of the givers. We do not know where this is all going to lead, but it is a huge, huge story.

Our Governor, when asked, what do you think about this, that the State of Ohio has taken all of this money, over \$50 million initially and given it to this coin dealer to put into these high-risk investments, what do you think of it, the Governor of Ohio said, hey, we are making money on that. I think it is a pretty good idea.

He thought he was making money on it? Well, think about it. How is it secured? No other State in the Union permitted investments in coins and collectibles. He was only looking at what he thought was yield. But the cardinal

rules of investing public money are safety first; liquidity, can you get it back over night if you need it; and only running a distant third, yield.

This is a very serious issue and yesterday in the State of Colorado there was a search warrant that was issued on one of the related individuals involved in this scandal, and they were in his house for over 12 hours pulling out investments in cigars, wine, over half a million dollars of wine I guess in that house alone.

The State of Ohio is now, through the Inspector General of Ohio, trying to find where is the workmen's compensation money that was improperly invested by those responsible, who had public responsibility for this.

Then today a story broke in Ohio that this same Bureau of Workers Compensation admitted it has lost \$215 million in a high-risk fund that few people knew about. The bureau had invested \$355 million with a Pittsburgh investment firm called MDL Capital Management beginning in 1998. But last year after diverting \$225 million into a fund that works like a hedge fund, the fund itself lost \$215 million. And although the bureau says it knew about the loss since last year, Governor Taft was only notified about it today.

There are investigations going on, including the Ohio Inspector General, the bureau spokesman, Jeremy Jackson told the Toledo Blade today. But the news came to light as a handful of agencies are looking into the bureau and its dealings with the Toledo area coin dealer, Mr. Tom Noe, who is one of the people that took some of this \$50 million and put it into coins and purportedly collectibles.

The Ohio Ethics Commission on Monday said it was looking into other investments held by the bureau, the agency charged with providing assistance to injured workers.

This is where I want to say in my district, the ninth district of Ohio, we have had four deaths of people, iron workers trying to build the largest transportation project in Ohio history over the Meumee River. These were unnecessary deaths because the State of Ohio was not inspecting the project properly. In fact, though the project was a year and a half ahead of schedule, they signed an acceleration agreement with the company to try to make the workers finish the project faster, even though it was a year and a half ahead of schedule. And the cranes that were used in this project collapsed because the company was not securing the foot of the cranes properly.

So the State of Ohio not only has taken workers' compensation money and misinvested it, they have not even done their job in protecting the lives of citizens who are trying to build Ohio forward in a very rough economy. It is unbelievable what is going on in our State.

At the center of this new loss of money was a man named Terry Gasper who was the former chief financial offi-

cer for Ohio's Bureau of Workers Compensation that is supposed to be there for the workers. The money is set aside by the companies for the workers, not to be put in these crazy investments that can never be recovered, but for workers who are injured on the job.

By the way, on that transportation project in our district, we have many injured workers who would benefit from that money. I will be submitting for the RECORD the most recent article about additional losses from the State of Ohio.

Shame on the Governor of Ohio. Shame on the State officials of the State of Ohio. What a tragedy they have perpetrated on the people of our State.

[From the Blade. June 7, 2005]

(By Mike Wilkinson and James Drew)

COLUMBUS.—The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation admitted today that it lost \$215 million in a high-risk fund that few people knew about.

The bureau had invested \$355 million with a Pittsburgh investment firm, MDL Capital Management, beginning in 1998.

But last year, after diverting \$225 million into a fund that works like a hedge fund, the fund lost \$215 million. Although the bureau has known about the loss since last year, Gov. Bob Taft was notified about it today.

"There are investigations going on, including the [Ohio] Inspector General," bureau spokesman Jeremy Jackson told The Blade.

The news came to light as a handful of agencies are looking into the bureau and its dealings with Toledo-area coin dealer Tom Noe. The Ohio Ethics Commission on Monday said it was looking into other investments held by the bureau, the agency charged with providing assistance to injured workers.

At the center of the MDL deal were Terry Gasper, the former chief financial officer for the bureau, and Jim McLean, the chief investment officer. In a memo to the governor, Tina Kielmeyer, acting bureau administrator, said Mr. Gasper did not notify former bureau Administrator James Conrad about the investment.

In the wake of the growing Noe scandal, Mr. Conrad resigned two week ago and left the agency on Friday. Mr. McLean was put on paid administrative leave today pending a management review of the situation.

The bureau last year asked the Ohio Attorney General to appoint special counsel in the case and ordered Mr. Gasper to either resign or be fired. He resigned Oct. 6, 2004.

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR DICK WINTERS

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to introduce legislation to authorize and request the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Richard D. Winters of Hershey, Pennsylvania, for acts of valor on June 6, 1944, in Normandy, France while an officer in the 101st Airborne Division.

Mr. Speaker, I do not take this issue lightly. It is with extreme concern that I had to resort to taking this action to right a wrong that occurred 61 years