

about the drug production and the farming going on in Afghanistan, and about this year's crop, and what are we going to do?

And General Myers said, "Well, we have a little problem this year. The harvest came in early. The harvest came in early. So we missed it."

Now, can you imagine, and it is the same as Mr. Skeleton has been saying, and many others in this chamber have been saying, we do not have enough troops in Afghanistan, and we did not have enough troops to get the job done in Iraq. That goes all of the way back to what was the planning, what was the end game, what was the exit strategy for both of these wars?

It is like our foreign policy has attention deficit disorder. We start a war in Afghanistan, it is not finished. We have not eradicated the poppy cultivation, \$2 and a half billion. And then all of a sudden, before the job is finished we go off and we start something else. And now we are in Iraq with no end in sight. And that goes back to basic planning, basic military philosophy. You need an exit strategy. You need a game plan. And we have not been able to do it in Iraq, and we have not been able to do it in Afghanistan.

Just some statistics on what is going on in Afghanistan. 3 years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan remains the world's sixth least developed country, 173rd out of 179 ranked by the United Nations. Miserable health and education systems, based on UN calculations, three-quarters of adult Afghans are illiterate. Fewer than one in five girls go to school in many of the provinces in Afghanistan, and half of the Afghans are poor. The average life expectancy for an Afghani is 45 and a half years, 20 years less than any neighboring country.

One Afghani woman dies in pregnancy every 30 minutes. We have been there for 3 years and we cannot set up basic health facilities so women could deliver a baby in safety? And it is because we have diverted our attention.

Four were injured yesterday in a car bombing, 20 were killed on June 1. Human Rights Watch is calling for NATO to send in more security forces to Afghanistan, following a marked deterioration of the security situation throughout May.

In the past month, Afghanistan has seen a series of political killings, violent protests, attacks on humanitarian workers, and bombings targeting foreign civilians and troops. Let us get it right. Let us focus on Afghanistan and make sure that the underground black market drug economy does not continue to fund terrorism.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

O God of spacious skies and patriots' dreams, today is a day of national patriotism as we honor the Flag of these United States of America.

Flags flown over this Capitol are a gift treasured by those who receive them. But You, Lord God, gift all Americans when they are moved to love this country and all its citizens by simply taking a few moments to make a solemn pledge.

We bless You and thank You for our women and men in the military who hoist this Flag over ships at sea and over makeshift camps on foreign soil; for senior citizen veterans who salute waving stars and stripes in a passing parade and for children in classrooms who hold their hearts and their hands before it.

May we join Americans across this country, around the world and from generations past and generations to come, as together we hope and pray to be people who will bring Your peace, liberty, and justice to a hungry world, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADMINISTRATION SIDING WITH TOBACCO LOBBY

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Justice Department's decision to launch an investigation into whether or not the political pressure played a role in their decision to only seek a fraction of the possible penalty against the tobacco industry.

The U.S. Government won its case against Big Tobacco; but rather than seeking the maximum penalty of \$130

billion, the government suddenly decided to ask for only \$10 billion. Funny enough, that was equal to the amount of the taxpayer bail-out of the industry last year approved by this Congress.

The stunning reversal shocked everyone, including Philip Morris' lawyer, who said the company was very surprised.

Nobody seems to know how the decision was made. Some are saying that it had something to do with the \$40 million tobacco companies have given to the Republican Party since 1990. Or that it could have something to do with the \$170,000 they gave to President Bush last year. But that would be cynical. After all, what does \$40 million really get you nowadays?

Mr. Speaker, Americans want their justice unfiltered. Maybe we will even be able to get to the bottom of this Keystone Kops situation.

UNITED NATIONS REFORM

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, Thursday on the floor the House will take up the United Nations Reform Act of 2005. This is a comprehensive, indeed almost exhaustive, reform package aimed at the longstanding inefficiencies, inadequacies, and abuses at the U.N.

For all the frustration many Americans feel about the United Nations, the U.N., for all its faults, it remains the most established and immediately available forum for resolving international disputes and developing international consensus on a wide range of issues.

That said, most of the stated aims of the U.N.'s bureaucracy, to say nothing of the lofty ideal of its charter, have been undermined and in many cases brazenly contradicted by decades of waste, fraud, and abuse.

In the wake of the massive Oil-for-Food scandal still ripping through the U.N.'s headquarters, the American people, who currently provide 22 percent of the U.N.'s budget, can no longer trust that their dues payments are being responsibly spent.

The U.N., for all its strengths, should not be blindly trusted.

The clarity and transparency that defines democratic governments and institutions is nowhere to be seen in the U.N.'s financial management, or for that matter its human rights commission, its peculiar dislike for the State of Israel, its docile attitude towards the oppressive regimes, its hand-wringing and indecisiveness in times of crisis, and its anti-American policy-making apparatus.

The reform bill we will take up this week, the product of intense work by International Relations Chairman Henry Hyde will start to address these and other institutional shortcomings at the United Nations.

It would, most importantly, call for weighted voting on budgetary matters,

so that in the future the United States has more say in the U.N.'s budget than the representatives of Syria.

It would make the funding of certain inefficient programs voluntary, so that contributing nations will get more verifiable value for their contributions.

It would also finally cut back on the U.N.'s lavish international conference budget, which, hard as it is to believe, comprises the single largest section of the U.N.'s budget.

In addition, the Hyde bill will put in place human rights requirements that nations must meet before they may have a say in the U.N.'s human rights organizations.

On and on the list of reforms goes, all of which will be enforced by the promise in the Hyde bill that the U.N.'s failure to reform will trigger a withholding of 50 percent of the United States dues.

These necessary reforms and the necessary stick behind them are long overdue, Mr. Speaker, and may finally help create the United Nations the world has needed all along.

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM IRAQ

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this report today from National Public Radio: a poll released Monday by the Gallup organizations shows that six in 10 Americans think the U.S. should withdraw some or all troops from Iraq. Support for withdrawal from Iraq is building across the country. And it is building in the Congress. This week, a bipartisan coalition of Members will come forward with a new plan for withdrawal from Iraq. The American people want us to withdraw from Iraq.

It is time for us to come together, whether we supported the war or not, Democratic and Republicans alike, to acknowledge it is time for a new direction in Iraq, and that direction is out. The time has come to begin withdrawal from Iraq. That is what the American people want.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to give my strong support to 2423, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, introduced by my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

This bill will help protect our children by requiring sex offenders to register in person twice a year and calling on States to maintain searchable sex offender databases.

While the gentleman from Florida's (Mr. FOLEY) bill will provide a deterrent to the monsters who prey on our

children, I hope we can pass provisions similar to those that the Nevada State legislature recently passed. The Nevada bill adds an extra level of protection by requiring sex offenders to renew their driver's licenses every year, a step made necessary by the fact that so many of these predators failed to register at all.

I want to close by expressing my sincere thanks to Donna Coleman, president of the Children's Advocacy Alliance. Ms. Coleman and her organization have been outspoken advocates of the most innocent among us, those who cannot speak out for themselves, the children. Their motto is, "Putting the health and safety of children first"; and they have done that by tirelessly working in Nevada to ensure that laws are passed to support and defend their children.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), Ms. Coleman and the Children's Advocacy Alliance and look forward to working with them to protect our children.

UNITED NATIONS REFORM

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, scandals at the United Nations have been going on for far too long and are far too many. Oil-For-Food scandal, UNICEF scandal, peacekeeping operation scandal, the list goes on and on with no end in sight. The days of giving the U.N. a blank check must come to an end.

Accountability and ethics must return to the United Nations. Somewhere in the mess of Saddam Hussein collecting kickbacks, workers collecting pay checks for work they never did and poor management of funds, it was forgotten that the goal of the U.N. was to provide assistance to those who need it most.

The case for reform could not be more clear. When an organization lacks the fundamental institutional control that is needed to operate in a fair and unbiased manner, changes must be made.

The time to streamline and prioritize programs and hold those in charge at the U.N. accountable has come. The focus of the United Nations has shifted from its intended purpose of protecting people and ensuring humanitarian aid to scandals that make the headlines in the tabloids and embarrass the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we ensure that the future of the United Nations is not a story of scandal, but a story of success.

AMERICA'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO SURGE FORWARD

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I see encouraging news each

week proving that President Bush's tax cuts and his economic policies are clearly paying off for the American people and the American economy.

In May, over 78,000 Americans found new jobs and over 3.5 million jobs have been created in the last 2 years. The job growth amounts to more jobs created in America than new jobs in France, Germany, England, Canada, and Japan combined. Although we have seen steady job gains for each of the last 24 months, I know President Bush will not be satisfied until every American who wants to work can find a job.

Additionally, the gross domestic product has been revised upward for the first quarter from 3.1 to 3.5 percent.

With more Americans working more than ever, our flourishing economy is also shrinking the national deficit. Last week, the Treasury Department announced the May deficit has decreased by \$27 billion, which is the smallest deficit for the month of May since 2001. President Bush and the Republican Members of Congress are committed to cutting the deficit in half in 5 years.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

DEARHAVEN THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand opening of the DearHaven Therapeutic Riding Center located in Glade Valley, North Carolina, and to pay my respects to a woman whose dream of helping the disabled has finally come to fruition.

Susan Billings had a dream. She wanted to help people with disabilities find meaning in life by riding horses. This unique form of therapy improves flexibility, balance and muscle strength while increasing confidence in the disabled. In order to build DearHaven, Susan and her husband sold their home and devoted nearly all their time and resources to building the center. They assembled a board of directors and found their first clients.

Sadly, however, Susan never saw the final outcome of her dream. She passed away in a tragic automobile accident last November. She left behind a loving husband, two parents, four children, two stepchildren, and her dream for the DearHaven Therapeutic Riding Center.

Even though Susan passed away, her loved ones refused to let her dream die. The tragedy caused the community to unite in a way almost unimaginable. Following Susan's funeral, hours of free labor, monetary donations, and supplies came from every direction. The center was projected to cost \$118,000, but due to the generosity of the community, ended up costing closer to \$20,000.

One of the great tragedies in our society occurs when a person who has lived a long life lies on their deathbed and wonders if their life