

agencies, the National Science Foundation, the various groups at NIH, and even through the Defense Department, to help develop these miracle drugs.

So in some respects, we pay for them in the prices we pay, we pay in the Tax Code, and we pay in the research that we pay for.

It is time to give Americans access to world-class drugs at world-market prices.

SMART SECURITY AND IRAQ'S SOLDIERS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on April 12 at Fort Hood, Texas, President Bush told an audience of thousands of servicemembers that, for the first time, Iraqi soldiers outnumbered U.S. soldiers in Iraq. Specifically, he put the number of trained Iraqi forces at 150,000.

This rosy assessment of the situation in Iraq is shocking, not only for its arrogance, but also for its ignorance. Is the President totally oblivious of Iraq's true security failures, or is he misleading the American people into thinking that peace has taken hold?

Either way, the President's assessment misleads the American people about the true situation in Iraq. Take, for example, his claim that 150,000 Iraqi soldiers have been trained. Iraqi military leaders actually reveal that the number of trained soldiers is closer to 75,000, about half of the President's estimate. But the actual number of trained security personnel committed to a secure and democratic Iraq is even less than that, because many soldiers use their posts to assassinate political opponents. Others simply have no desire to help secure Iraq.

The chief of police in Basra, General Hassan al-Sade, stated that at least half of his 14,000-member militia are openly opposed to a secure Iraq, and another quarter are politically neutral and do not follow his military orders. General al-Sade recently told the Guardian newspaper, "I trust 25 percent of my force, no more."

After giving his Fort Hood speech, the President never again mentioned that 150,000 Iraqi security personnel have been trained. Perhaps that is because he realized that his assessment was entirely inaccurate.

But the President never admitted to the American people that he was wrong in this assessment, and he still has not told the American people how he plans to help secure Iraq or how and when he plans to bring the troops home.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to help secure Iraq and protect our troops is to remove U.S. troops from the country. Nothing enrages and unites Iraq's insurgency more than the presence of nearly 140,000 American soldiers on Iraqi soil.

One option is to bring one American soldier home for every trustworthy

Iraqi soldier that has been trained. If 75,000 Iraqi soldiers have been trained, half the President's April 12 assessment, then why can we not remove the same number of our own soldiers?

This is just one plan to exit from Iraq. We have asked the President to come up with his own plan for securing Iraq. I am not against supporting the President's plan if it is a good one; but right now, he does not even have a plan. So we will develop a plan of our own.

Fortunately, there is a plan that would secure America for the future once we have cleaned up the mess we made in Iraq: SMART Security. SMART is a Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism for the 21st Century, and it will help us address the threats we face as a Nation.

SMART Security will prevent acts of terrorism in countries like Iraq by addressing the very conditions which allow terrorism to take root: poverty, despair, resource scarcity, lack of education, and economic opportunities. SMART Security encourages the United States to work with other nations to address the most pressing global issues. SMART Security addresses global crises diplomatically instead of by resorting to armed conflict. Efforts to help the Iraqi people must follow the SMART approach: humanitarian assistance coordinated with our international allies to rebuild Iraq's war-torn physical and economic infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 2 years since the United States started the war in Iraq. Do the American people, especially the soldiers who are bravely serving our country halfway across the world, not deserve a plan for ending the war? It is time for the President to create a plan to end the war in Iraq to bring our troops home.

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WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I hadn't realized the juxtaposition that the speakers would have this evening. But my remarks, I think, dovetail somewhat with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) in regard to addressing the issue of withdrawing from Iraq and exit strategy and so on. We hear a lot of debate about that.

And I am not here to debate the merits of the war in the Middle East. I am not here to talk about the intelligence leading up to the war, but I would like to address the current reality of the situation, we are there. We made sacrifices. We have lost roughly 1,700 soldiers. We have spent billions of dollars.

And yet as I traveled to the Middle East, I have been to Iraq three times, I have been to Afghanistan once, Kuwait

once, I have been amazed at our soldiers' morale. And they often tell me this, they say there are two wars that we are fighting over here, there is the war that we see on CNN, the bombings, the beheadings, and then there is the war that we are actually experiencing.

And I wondered if you please go home and tell the American people what we are seeing and what we feel about the situation. So as far as Afghanistan is concerned, I met with a Colonel this morning who just returned from Afghanistan. We realize we have disrupted the terrorist training camps, their funding for terrorists have been disrupted, the Taliban has been removed, they have a representative government, constitution, and a great leader in Karzai. So we have made considerable progress.

It is not perfect, but things have certainly gone well there. As far as Iraq is concerned, Saddam Hussein has been deposed. And I am the cochair of the Iraqi Womens Caucus. So I meet with Iraqi women in Iraq and also here. And the one thing that they continually tell me is this: They say, you know, Iraq is still a dangerous place. There is a lot of bad things. But for the first time in 30 years, we now have hope. We now see a future. And hope is a very powerful thing.

As far as education is concerned, the school attendance has increased by 80 percent, most of those are young women for the first time going to school. Health care, 97 percent of the young people have been vaccinated for the first time. We all know about the elections and how that empowered the Iraqi people. And one thing that we do not hear much about is economic activity, Iraqi income has doubled in the last year. So a great deal has been accomplished. So as far as the strategy is concerned, or is there an exit strategy, what are we talking about here?

It is very clear. If you talk to General Casey, you talk to General Petraeus, they say here is the objective. We are going to train 270,000 Iraqis. And they will give you charts that show you explicitly that they have trained more than 150,000, and they are armed and they are proficient at this point. So we are training about 10,000 a month. So the math indicates that about 1 year from now we will be at 270,000.

The other thing that has to happen, in addition to the 270,000 trained, is we have to make sure that Iraq can control its own destiny, we have to have a stable government, and we have seen some improvement in that direction as well.

We have seen the Iraqis now out in front in most military actions. There are portions of the country where Iraqis are solely in control militarily. So we see signs that are good. The big question, the wild card at this point is Sunni involvement in the government. And Al Jafari will tell you, General Casey will tell you, we do not know how that is going to go, so we cannot give a precise timetable.

Declaring that we would pull out at a date certain, I think, would be counter-productive. It would be a like giving a playbook to an opponent, as a coach, something you would not do. You would not give insurgents a date certain, where they can wait and say, well, this is the time when a certain amount of troops will be gone and we can go therefore begin to attack, and certainly encourage terrorists.

A young captain in Kuwait told me this. He said, if we pull out prematurely, three things will happen. Number 1, the 1,700 soldiers that we have had killed there will have died in vain, and we will have to tell their families that. Number 2, tens of thousands of Iraqis will be killed in the ensuing conflict, and we promised them, we gave them our word that this would not happen, that we would not pull out prematurely.

And, thirdly, we would have encouraged terrorists around the world. And so it seems to me that the course that we are pursuing, while not perfect, makes some sense, and we definitely do have an exit strategy.

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 the White House news conference early this month, President Bush called on Congress to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement this summer. Earlier this month, the most powerful Republican in Congress, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), promised a vote by July 4. Well, actually last year he promised a vote during 2004. Then he promised by Memorial Day that we would vote on CAFTA. Now, I think he means it this time, now he is saying we are going to vote on CAFTA by July 4.

As Congress waits for the next CAFTA vote countdown to begin, while we wait and wait and wait, many of us who have been speaking out, on both sides of the aisle, dozens of Republicans and dozens of Democrats have a message to the President and to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), renegotiate the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

President Bush signed CAFTA almost 13 months ago. Every trade agreement negotiated by this administration, Morocco, Chile, Singapore, Australia, has been voted on within 60 days of the President's signing the agreement. But CAFTA has been 13 months. It has languished in Congress for more than a year without a vote because this wrong-headed trade agreement offends Republicans and Democrats.

It offends small business people and farmers and ranchers. It offends Central American workers and American workers. It offends advocates for food safety and the environment. Just look at what has happened with our trade policy, and the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. DELAY) and the President want more of the same.

Look at what has happened to our trade policy in the last dozen years. The year that I came to Congress, the same year that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) came to Congress, we were elected in 1992, that year the U.S. had a \$38 billion trade deficit, meaning we imported \$38 billion more than we exported. 12 years later, a dozen years later, last year, our trade deficit went from \$38 billion 12 years later to \$618 billion.

It is hard to argue that our trade policy is working when the deficit goes from \$38 billion and balloons to \$618 billion in just a dozen years.

But, it is more than just some numbers, Mr. Speaker, on a trade deficit, it is also job loss. In the last 6 years, manufacturing jobs alone, the States in red have lost 20 percent or more of their manufacturing base. Michigan has lost 210,000 manufacturing jobs, Illinois, 224, Ohio 216, Pennsylvania 199, New Jersey over 100,000 Alabama and Mississippi together, 130,000 jobs.

The States in blue have lost 15 to 20 percent of their manufacturing jobs. Texas, 201,000. California 354,000. It is pretty clear our trade policy is not working, Mr. Speaker. Opponents to CAFTA know that it is an extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement, a dysfunctional cousin of NAFTA, for all intents and purposes.

It did not work then, it is not working now. It is the same old story. Every time there is a trade agreement in front of Congress, the President says it will mean more jobs for Americans. The President promises, we will manufacture more products and export them abroad. The President promises it will raise the standard of living in the countries of our trading partners, and the developing countries.

Yet, with every trade agreement their promises fall by the wayside in favor of big business interests, not small business interests, big business interests that sends U.S. jobs overseas and exploit cheap labor abroad.

Ben Franklin said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over and expecting a different result. We hear the same promises on the same kind of trade agreements, and we get the same negative results. In the face of overwhelming bipartisan opposition, Republican leadership and the administration have tried every trick in the book to pass this CAFTA and they failed.

Now, they have opened the bank. Desperate after failing to gin up support for the agreement based on its merits, CAFTA supporters are now attempting to buy votes with their fantastic promises. If history is an example, Members should beware of these promises. Fewer than 20 percent, 14 out of 92 trade promises from the administration in the last dozens years, 14 out of 92 trade promises, less than 20 percent, were ever realized.

The White House will make all kinds of promises to Members on both sides

of the aisle, but do not be suckers, it is going to happen again and again and again. Instead of wasting with toothless side deals, Ambassador Portman should renegotiate a trade deal, a CAFTA that will pass Congress.

Republicans and Democrats, labor and business, farmers and ranchers, religious leaders in Central America, religious leaders in the United States, environmental and human rights organizations in all seven countries are speaking with one voice: Defeat this CAFTA and renegotiate a CAFTA that lifts up workers in both countries.

Mr. Speaker, a worker in the United States averages about \$38,000 a year in wages. The Dominican Republic about \$6,000, Honduras about \$2,600, Nicaragua 2,300. A Nicaraguan worker who earns \$2,300 a year cannot buy cars made in Ohio, cannot buy prescription drugs manufactured in New Jersey, cannot buy textiles and apparel from North Carolina, cannot buy software from Seattle, cannot buy prime cut beef from Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement is about outsourcing jobs to El Salvador, exploiting cheap labor in Guatemala. When the world's poorest people can buy American products, not just make them, then you know our trade policy will finally have succeeded.

IRAQ AND GUANTANAMO

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about two issues, Iraq and Guantanamo, to talking about war and prisons. We have heard a lot about both in the last few months. And I think it is incumbent upon us to understand the situation.

We hear about Iraq and the situation in Iraq. And I was fortunate on January 30 to be in Iraq, along with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), two Members of Congress on Election Day to see a nation born, a new nation with a democracy. The cynics said it would never happen. They said the Iraqi people were not smart enough to have a democracy, they did not know what it was like.

Yet 60 percent of those people went out and voted, defiant of the tyranny, of the terrorists. Almost 60 of them were murdered either going to or from the polls, but yet they went and voted. Almost 300 others were injured going to and from the polls, but yet they voted. The timetable for that country to have a democracy is a short one, almost 2 years. But we forget that our own country took 13 years, from the beginning of the war for independence and the setting of the Constitution of the United States. It took us a long time.

Yet we expect more of the Iraqi people. And they are performing that. And I was honored to be there to see those people, to tell me personally that they appreciated American and America's