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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 27, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for 5 minutes.

KARL ROVE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last week the Deputy Chief of Staff of the President of the United States, Karl Rove, a man who began as a political operator, and was rewarded for his political successes by being named to a very high position in the administration—indeed, he is clearly as influential in shaping the policies of the Bush Administration as anyone other than the President himself—made a speech which was harsh, as is his right, but which was thoroughly

dishonest, which again is his right under the first amendment to the Constitution, but ought not to be a right which high officials of the Federal Government avail themselves of so freely.

Mr. Rove lied. The speech consists of a number of conscious, deliberate lies, particular ones and general ones. Here is what he said in his effort to further the deep polarization of this country from which he believes his side will benefit if he is able to shape the way in which it is perceived. “The most important difference between conservatives and liberals can be found in the area of national security. Conservatives saw the savagery of 9/11 in the attacks and prepared for war. Liberals saw the savagery of the 9/11 attacks and wanted to prepare indictments and offer therapy and understanding for our attackers.”

Mr. Speaker, that is a lie. It is a lie consisting of a number of lies. I am a liberal, Mr. Speaker. And along with many, many other liberals in this Chamber, my response to the savage murders of Americans on 9/11 has no resemblance to the political dishonesty that Karl Rove put forward.

I voted for war in Afghanistan. No one who serves here votes for war easily. No one who has the responsibility of defending the country can be cavalier about sending the young men and women of our country off to battle, to kill and be killed. But the vote to go to war in Afghanistan, to authorize the President, in effect, to go to war, to take whatever measures were necessary, and we knew when we did that that we were talking about going after the regime in Afghanistan which was sheltering that murderer, Osama bin Laden, that vote was virtually unanimous. There was one “no” vote here. There were no “no” votes in the other body.

There are a lot of liberals here, Mr. Speaker. And virtually unanimously we voted to go to war in Afghanistan.

Yet Mr. Rove would lie to the American people and characterize that decision to go to war in defense of the country as indictments and therapy and understanding.

Shortly after that, on the Judiciary Committee on which I then served, we spent a couple of weeks dealing with what should be done to increase the law enforcement powers of this country. And we voted out a bill by a unanimous vote of 36 to 0. There are a number of liberals on that committee; Myself, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the most determined defender of civil liberties I have ever served with, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), the chairman on our side, the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the gentlemen from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Members deeply committed to liberalism. And we voted unanimously for a bill that enhanced law enforcement powers. It was not therapy. It was not understanding. It was enhanced law enforcement powers. Now, it is true that many of us subsequently voted against a very different bill that came to the floor.

But the version we reported out of our committee was the one of which the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), boasted a while ago about his bipartisanship, because it provided significantly enhanced law enforcement powers.

Sadly the Republican leadership then decided to kill that bill, and with no debate, no chance to read it, substitute a very different bill that many of us opposed on procedural as well as substantive grounds.

But the fact is that the liberals on the Judiciary Committee unanimously supported increased law enforcement powers. So the notion that we were offering only therapy, that lie, is of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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course refuted by the fact that we voted go to war. We voted for enhanced law enforcement powers.

But then comes the biggest lie of all. What Mr. Rove appears to be trying to do is to perpetuate one of the most damaging acts of dishonesty we have seen from a President of the United States, the argument that part of the reason for invading Iraq was to defend ourselves against 9/11. That is, of course, what is implicit in Mr. Rove's speech. He would put together the attack of 9/11, and what we did in Iraq.

But, the fact is now very clear, the Iraqi regime, despicable as it was, was not involved in the murders of 9/11. The war in Iraq was not based on an effort to deal with 9/11. That was the war in Afghanistan, which we supported.

So what you have from Mr. Rove, I would say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, is a couple of specific lies in pursuit of a very big one, a big one that tries to get America to forget how dishonestly this administration argued for the war in Iraq.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, the Book of Proverbs tells us of Your care and concern for leaders: "Discretion will watch over you. Understanding will guard you."

Lord, without discretion, power and position may be wasted and personal virtues produce nothing.

As a special aspect of prudence, discretion enlightens a person to one's true motives in acting and inspires multiple means to achieve one's goal.

So fill Members of the House of Representatives with discretion this week.

May they be discreet in what they say and discreet in what they do. Since they have such an impact on so many people, they need to be mindful that indiscreet thoughts boomerang their sting when they come to light in word or deed.

In Your sight, O Lord, discretion is the better part of valor now and always.

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 Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts 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.

PATRIOTIC SPIRIT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it was my great pleasure this weekend to attend a wonderful patriotic program at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem entitled, "Our Flag Was Still There." Interspersed with music and narration were reminders of times our country has been challenged and brave Americans have risen to the challenge.

As we approach the Fourth of July and all the celebrations attendant to it, it was gratifying to see a major church in our area doing its part to remind us of our heritage and inspire people to pray for our country. I quote Pastor Al Gilbert: "The flag is the symbol that has much standing behind it. Today there are thousands of men and women wearing this flag on their sleeve and standing in harm's way. We must stand behind them as they stand for what is behind the flag. We remember those who made this a great Nation and we invite you to join us in praying for the needs of our country today."

Associate Pastor Larry White: "You are exercising your right to celebrate and worship freely in our great country. In light of the threat to the safety and peace our country has faced in recent years and our current world condition, we especially want to honor the men and women who sacrifice that we may be sustained. We salute you and your commitment to our country."

I am grateful to all of the folks at Calvary, and all the other churches in our country that will have similar programs this weekend, for their patriotic spirit and their prayers.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF OSCAR BROWN, JR.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to extend condolences to the family of a dear friend of mine and a friend of all people who love culture, art, music, literature.

Oscar Brown, Jr., died a few days ago, and of course, Oscar was a noted enter-

tainer who always stayed close to his roots. Some of his great pieces were things like Mr. Kicks and, of course, his great song about the snake.

I simply say to his wife Jean Pace, to their children, especially his daughter Maggie who is a great entertainer in her own right, that we appreciated having the opportunity to know and benefit from Oscar's great works and wish you all much happiness as you continue to live out his legacy.

UNOCAL

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request that the Bush administration review, under the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation's bid to purchase Unocal.

Mr. Speaker, at a time of rising prices on global oil supplies, ready access to energy resources is vital to our economic security. It is imperative that the United States protect its access to these energy resources in order to protect our economy and our national security.

This committee, chaired by Treasury Secretary Snow, may block this foreign acquisition of an American corporation if it finds that there is evidence that the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation might take action that threatens our national security.

Such a review is not unprecedented. Mr. Speaker, in 2003, the committee reviewed a bid by Hong Kong-based Hutchinson Whampoa to purchase Global Crossing, and earlier this year the committee reviewed the sale of IBM's personal computer business to the Chinese firm, the Lenovo Group.

Should the committee determine that this acquisition threatens the national security of the United States, it could ultimately issue a suspension or a denial.

Whether the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation's actions, through the takeover of Unocal, will threaten our national security is not yet known; however, they justify a thorough review.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LONGHORNS ON WINNING THE 2005 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to congratulate the Nation's 2005 College World Series champions, the University of Texas Longhorns.

This is an amazing sixth national title for the Longhorns. It also represents a record 32nd trip to the College World Series.