

that are on the line. We owe our soldiers better.

It is time for the President to admit that this war was a mistake. It is time for us to begin an orderly withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. It is time for President Bush to end his war.

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced the Private Property Protection Act, a companion bill to legislation in the Senate designed to correct the erroneous decision made by the Supreme Court on June 23. That decision redefined the Constitution's fifth amendment. That decision, *Kelo v. City of New London*, was a slap in the face of homeowners, small businesses, and, frankly, Americans.

Ordinary private property owners stand to suffer from the corrupting influence this sweeping legislation will have because government officials, because government officials can aggressively use the powers of eminent domain purely for economic reasons.

Our legislation establishes two important standards that must be met before government decides to exercise its power and take and transfer private property.

The first standard is that eminent domain should only be used for public use, as guaranteed by the fifth amendment. The second is that this power should be reserved only for true public uses, not simply to provide private economic development so government can make more tax revenue.

Let us stop the abuse of eminent domain before it happens. I urge the Members of this body to support this very necessary piece of legislation.

LETTING MTBE MANUFACTURERS OFF THE HOOK

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago, the House narrowly voted down my amendment to the energy bill to hold MTBE manufacturers accountable for the groundwater contamination their product has produced. Many Members voted "no" because of some impending deal to address the issue once and for all. Now reports of the deal have leaked out. They are not pretty, and they will not address the MTBE contamination our constituents face.

This deal would provide full liability protection to the MTBE producers and establish an \$8 billion trust fund to address the contamination crisis. One big problem: the cleanup of MTBE contamination will cost between \$25 billion and \$33 billion. It could be as high

as \$85 billion, dwarfing the deal's cleanup fund.

Another problem: at least half of this fund comes from taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, why should taxpayers pay to clean up MTBE contamination? Manufacturers caused this problem, and they should clean it up. It is a deal written by industry for the industry.

No surprise that water districts, cities, and counties across the country do not support this deal. They are the people who have to deal with the contamination. I urge my colleagues to oppose the liability waiver of MTBE and any deal like this.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY'S TRANSFER OF POWER

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the Coalition Provisional Authority's transfer of power to the Iraqi people. Over the past 2 years, we have made great progress in Iraq. There are now 170,000 trained Iraqi security forces taking on increased security burdens. There are 2,400 schools that have been rehabilitated. Major roads and bridges have been rebuilt, and water and sewer treatment plants have been repaired.

On January 30, 8½ million Iraqis defied terrorist insurgents by coming out to vote for a free and democratic Iraq. That vote resulted in the election of the Iraqi National Assembly, which convened for the time in March.

The desire for freedom is universal, and the Iraqi people are no different from us. The 8½ million Iraqis who voted for democracy on January 30, and who are working tirelessly to rid their country of terrorist extremists, are evidence enough of their desire for freedom and democracy.

We must continue to support and pray for the Iraqis in their transition to democracy, and all the brave allied troops fighting and dying for Iraq and Afghanistan in the war on terror. Our continued support is critical to their success and our future security.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE NATION

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, last night we watched a very sad event. The President of the United States came out here to try and convince the American people to support him yet again.

□ 1030

The problem is that the President did not recognize while he was standing there that nobody trusts his judgment.

Nobody trusts the vice president's judgment, the man who says we are in

the last throes of the problems in Baghdad. Even Rumsfeld has come forward and said, "We are going to be there 12 years."

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the President comes and tries to sell us another 12 years and says things are going well, it just does not work. This was ill-conceived. It was ill-prepared for. It has been poorly executed by the management, not by the troops on the ground. They have done the best they could. But they are there because the President of the United States wanted them there.

This is George Bush's war. This is not a war on terrorism; this is a war of conquest by George Bush.

DOING WHAT IS REQUIRED IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill said, "Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on a strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter."

Last night, the Commander-in-Chief addressed the Nation on the war in Iraq, laying out a clear strategy for victory built on the courage of our troops and the determination of the American people. The President reminded us that the war in Iraq is a central battlefield in the War on Terror that began the morning of September 11, and the President said, when Iraqi troops stand up, American forces will stand down.

President Bush reminded me of that great leader Winston Churchill, who also said, "It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what is required."

Let us do what is required. Let us win the peace and democracy the good people of Iraq so richly deserve after decades of tyranny, and then, and only then, let us bring our troops home.

REPUBLICANS CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Washington Republicans cannot have it both ways on Social Security. Since the beginning of this year, President Bush and House Republicans have been telling everyone who will listen that Social Security is going broke. President Bush went so far as to take a field trip to West Virginia to show the American people that there really is not a trust fund where all the surplus Social Security funds are kept.

Of course, the President was being dishonest. The vault is filled with Treasury bonds that must be paid back to Social Security in the years to

come. Regardless, he went to West Virginia and told the American people that the Social Security trust fund did not exist.

So now Congressional Republicans have come up with a brilliant idea: Create private accounts with the money that exists in the trust fund. Who are Congressional Republicans trying to fool? It is clear that the Congressional Republicans are determined to privatize Social Security, despite very little support for the idea.

H. RES. 340 AND THE NEW LONDON DECISION

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in defense of one of the most fundamental guarantees afforded us by our Constitution, our right to own private property. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, by the narrowest of margins, the Supreme Court has, for all practical purposes, placed a for-sale sign on the doorstep of every American home or business and it reads, "for sale by government."

Mr. Speaker, by a vote of 5 to 4, these sacred property rights have been thrown out in the name of expediency and greed. Justice O'Connor stated it best in the minority's dissent when she called the majority's opinion "perverse."

Mr. Speaker, this perversity cannot stand. Therefore, I introduce House Resolution 340 to demonstrate this House's resolve and dedication to defend our constitutionally guaranteed property rights. I call on all Members of this Chamber on both sides of the aisle to speak in one voice in defense of the Constitution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The Chair must remind all Members, and this does not refer to the immediately previous speaker, that they should not make derogatory statements toward the President.

THE SECURITY AND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) for including the Security and Financial Empowerment Act in her comprehensive VAWA bill.

Domestic violence, in addition to being a personal tragedy, costs employers millions of dollars in sick leave, absenteeism and loss of productivity, and it causes thousands of victims to lose

their job, forcing them to stay in an abusive relationship when unable to provide for themselves and their children.

The provisions of the SAFE Act protect the economic security of these victims by permitting up to 30 days of unpaid leave to see a doctor, go to court or find a safe place to live. Further, it prohibits insurers from dropping their coverage due to this violence, and it assures that women forced to leave their lives because of this abuse are eligible for unemployment compensation.

Finally, the bill creates a resource center for businesses seeking to help employees who suffer from domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the SAFE Act is an important bill that must be included in the reauthorization of VAWA. It helps employers to keep valuable employees, and it empowers victims of domestic violence to leave their abuser.

FAMILY BUDGET PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, every day families and businesses across America have to make tough decisions. They have to live within a budget and eliminate wasteful spending. The Federal Government should act no differently.

So I have joined my colleagues in re-introducing the Family Budget Protection Act in this Congress. It is legislation that gives the budget resolution the force of law. It limits the growth of spending. It places a premium on combating waste, fraud and abuse. And it forces us to honestly account for long-term funding obligations.

Together, these reforms will help balance the budget, promote more responsible spending and encourage Congress to make the same tough decisions that confront American families and small businesses every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to demonstrate our commitment to fiscal discipline and join me in supporting the Family Budget Protection Act.

ADMINISTRATION POLICIES IN IRAQ BASED ON FAILURE AND FALSEHOOD

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, our proud troops in Iraq last night deserved an address that showed a President committed to effectiveness and truth. The sad fact is that these administration policies are based on failure and falsehood.

The failure is that, a full 2 years after the Iraq war started, we still have less than 15 percent, less than three battalions, that this administration

has effectively trained that are ready for combat operations to replace American military personnel and bring them home.

This is a spectacular record of failure. After 2 years of us here in this Chamber demanding that the President train these troops so that they can replace the American GIs and Marines, we have three battalions, and that is it; after 2 years?

This has happened because of the rose-colored glasses that this administration has worn, thinking we were going to be greeted like liberators in Paris. They were wrong. And it is based on falsehood, falsehood when the President stood right behind me and said that there was WMDs. There was not, and now he is trying to bait and switch.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I have never heard so many negative statements as we see coming from the other side of the aisle, with speaker after speaker, most of them scripted, making false accusations as to what the Republicans are doing with Social Security.

If they are going to criticize what the Republicans are doing to try to save Social Security, let them come forward with their plan. Everybody knows that Social Security is going to be going into the red beginning in 2017. Everybody who has done any research knows there is a \$26 trillion shortfall over the next 75 years in cash. So what are they doing? They are sitting there making false accusations about what we are trying to do.

One of the speakers just this morning said that we were going to diminish the trust fund by putting the Treasury bills into the individual accounts. Nothing could be more wrong.

I assume that these statements are being made out of ignorance and not out of knowledge of the truth, because we know what it is when you say something that you know is not true.

HONEST TALK, NOT GIMMICKS, NEEDED ON SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to respond to the last one minute, indeed to set the record straight. The gentleman from Florida said the Republican plans do not make solvency worse. Read the DeMint plan. The only way that the Shaw-McCrery plan does not make it worse is by borrowing money and by counting the same money twice.

The gentleman talks about the urgency of the shortfall, but the