

## EMERGING DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina, and I wanted to say, as we go into the Memorial Day work period, certainly the war in Iraq is going to be on everybody's mind. I think it is very important for us as a Congress and for us as a Nation to acknowledge the great accomplishments that have taken place in the war against terror.

Foremost, we saw last year a constitution drafted by the people in Iraq, an election, December 15, in which 300 political parties participated, and now a government, their first government, an elected government that will take place for 4 years, led by Mr. Malaki.

We look forward to working with the emerging democracy in Iraq, as it will be a huge anchor for freedom throughout the Middle East and throughout the world. This is a very important significant development, and while the press buries these things on page C or C section on page 16, it should be front-page, bold-type news. It never will be in this town, but the American people know it.

I have the honor of representing five military installations in southeast Georgia, including the 48th Brigade and the 3rd Infantry Division, which has had so many soldiers over there. We have lost many constituents.

Yet, as we talk to those soldiers one on one, the people who have actually been to Iraq, not because they heard stories at a cocktail party or they read something in the New York Times, but people who have been there, not just once but two times, three times; they are very proud of the progress that has been made. They are very mindful of the sacrifices of the soldiers who will not be coming home on this Memorial Day with the rest of us.

We owe it to them to continue this mission and stick with it. Mr. Blair was in America today with the President and showing international unity on it. Now is not the time to cut and run as so many people are suggesting in Washington D.C.

Secondly, I want to talk about immigration. Finally, the Senate has passed an immigration bill. That is all we can say about it. It doesn't appear to be a very strong bill, doesn't appear to be a bill that is going to pass the House. We feel in the House, you have to secure the border. We are in favor of some sort of fence.

We believe, and DAVE DREIER has a bill, that we need to have a biometric ID card for the people who are over here working on a temporary visa. On the subject of temporary visas, we believe that you have to have a program in which the employer and the employees are protected to know who is legal and who is illegal.

We are going to go into this thing open-minded in the House, but I can

say this, that one thing that we have a lot of unity in is we don't want to support any kind of amnesty program, and we are not going to do that.

Thirdly, when we come back from this work period, we are going to continue to work on our tax policy. We are experiencing the lowest unemployment rate since, well, actually, a lower common rate than we had in the 1970s, the 1980s, the 1970s and the 1960s. It is at 4.7 percent. We have more jobs being created now, 5 million in fact, since the Bush tax cuts went in place in 2003.

We are going to keep the economy going through a smart appropriations process. We have passed four and a half appropriations bills. We are going to pass 11 of them before we break for the July recess. If we don't make that deadline, we will still keep the trains running on time and still stay ahead of the historic schedule of Congress. In these appropriation bills, we are cutting spending and staying within the budget.

We passed tonight, and Mr. MCHENRY had mentioned ANWR. If you can think about the Alaskan wildlife reserve, it is the size of a basketball court. The proposed drilling area is the size of a \$1 bill on an entire basketball court. Yet, if you think about the oil that comes are from there, if President Clinton had not vetoed that bill in 1995, today domestic oil supply would be 20 percent higher.

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We need to have all the domestic oil supply working for us and producing that we can, yet at the same time we need to continue our drive to ethanol and to alternative fuels.

Now, the gentleman from South Carolina introduced and passed recently a very important bill on hydrogen, giving awards for people who advanced the science of hydrogen technology the furthest. I think it is a very good bill, that passed with bipartisan support in the House. But we need to continue that kind of research on lithium batteries, on ethanol, on biodiesel and any kind of flex fuel.

The bill I have introduced, H.R. 4409, along with ELIOT ENGEL of New York, is a great step in that direction. We need to do everything we can to reduce our dependency on foreign oil, and what H.R. 4409 does is reduce our domestic consumption by 20 percent in the next 20 years.

Finally, let me just say this: We are seeing a lot of work coming out of Washington. A lot of times the press doesn't like to report on the good news, but we have had a couple of good weeks, and we are going to continue to work hard on behalf of the American people.

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## STATES NEED TO REGAIN THEIR AUTONOMY

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a joy to be able to join you here on the floor tonight and hear the report from the gentleman from Georgia, which clearly illustrates that we have done much good in recent days here in this Congress, and to outline what we will be doing that is very positive in the coming weeks when we return.

I also wish to be able to at this time piggyback on the comments of my good friend from New Jersey, who is talking about some of the issues we have and the overall approach to funding that we have here in Congress.

I would like, if I could, to focus my comments on a few things that we have in relationship between States and the Federal Government with money.

A former majority leader of this House once said that if you want to get out of the trap, sometimes you have to let go of the cheese. Well, in the relationship we have between Federal and State governments, sometimes we have to let go of the cheese and emphasize what I think the gentleman from New Jersey was saying, the Tenth Amendment.

In the 1860s, flush with money from heavy protectionist tariffs, the United States for the first time passed the Morrill Act which, was a significant grant of federal money to a State for a specific purpose, in that case Land Grant Colleges, which have done a great job, I have one in my State, my kids went to it, it is great.

But a century later, in the 1960s, that changed somewhat, as the Federal Government started dangling money out and States, cash starved, accepted that money. What happened, like any good addict, once the States were hooked on the money, they could not let go. And the Federal Government, as any good supplier, as soon as they were hooked, started changing the rules of the game with mandates, with strings, with attachments to those programs.

I don't find anyone even wrong or evil in this process. The Federal Government has all sorts of people coming to us with problems they want help on, and we as a people simply want to help.

The States, I spent 16 years in the legislature of a State, are trying to build services without extended costs to the States, and that federal match hanging out there is extremely tempting.

But what we find eventually down the line is the Federal Government has

a budget we would like to control in some way, and the States are hooked on the money we keep giving to them, with the fear if they lose the money, they will also lose control of the programs, which they don't have right now in the first place.

David Walker wrote a book called *The Rebirth of Federalism*, and in it he said from the period of 1964 to 1980 there was something that he called creeping conditionalism that came into this country. As he wrote, "There was a perennial Congressional tendency to impose strings and the more recent habit of adding regulations and mandates. The tendency even among block grants was and is to acquire conditions." We can see that in some of the programs like Safe Streets, CETA and CDBG.

In addition to that, there is a cost that is developed by the States for this Federal programming help. For example, in his book he also talks about the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1986, which now impose estimated costs of \$2 billion to \$3 billion annually on public water systems. That is money that must be raised by local taxpayers to pay for mandates and requirements of the Federal Government on this program, that was originally supposed to be a sharing concept.

The Education For the Handicapped Act, passed in 1968, now averages \$500 million annually of additional costs to State and local government. It has been estimated, he said, from 1983 to 1990, additional mandates that the Federal Government imposed upon State and local governments, somewhere between \$8 and \$13 billion in additional costs. Which simply means, as the old adage says, the only thing that is worse than an unfunded mandate is actually a funded mandate.

Now, is there blame to go around? Yes, on both our sides. Blame on the Federal Government because we become too involved in too many projects in a kind-hearted effort to try and help people. There is also blame for the State governments, who take this too much, become too entrapped and need these programs and these funds to continue on. And though both of us are unhappy with the situation, we keep lumbering on with the same concept and the same program. Both of us, the Federal and State governments, find ourselves in a trap, and both of us, if we are going to improve, have got to some day realize we have to let go of the cheese.

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

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that you are yielding the time to us, and we are really pleased to be on the floor tonight to talk about some of the work that we have done over the past few weeks.

Before we start, I do want to say that we are very mindful that this is Memorial Day weekend. We are all looking forward to going home and being with our constituents, and we are very respectful and appreciative of the families who have served our Nation who have given the ultimate sacrifice, and we want to express to those families our continued condolences for their losses, and we also want to express to them our thanks for how they have sacrificed and served and helped to further the cause of freedom.

We would not have the opportunity to stand in this hall, this wonderful People's House tonight, if it were not for the brave men and women who serve in uniform to protect our freedom. Because they are so important to us, we have passed some legislation, the Respect For Fallen Heroes Act, which will preserve the dignity of the men and women who have lost their lives and show respect for those families. That passed this afternoon in this body, and we thank Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. BUYER, who chairs our Veterans Affairs Committee, for their work on those efforts.

Mr. SIMMONS, the gentleman from Connecticut, and I have filed a bill this week which is the Veterans Identity Theft Protection Act. It is H.R. 5464. This was done in response to the egregious, egregious leak and actions from the Veterans Affairs Department and the employee there who lost the identity information of 26.5 million of our veterans.

We are going to be moving forward on that legislation to protect and try

to make right that situation with our veterans when we return. This is something that should not have occurred. It is a failure of the bureaucracy, and it is something that the Members of this House are moving forward to address.

Before we get into talking about our successes in this body, the bills that we have passed, the legislation that we are working hard on for the American people, I want to say a little bit about the immigration legislation. And after we finish our conversation this evening, we are going to finish up with more conversation on the immigration legislation that our friends across the dome in the Senate passed.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to have to tell you that the legislation that the other body passed, in my opinion, is a form of amnesty. I have been and remain solidly opposed to amnesty, and I do stand opposed to that legislation that they have passed.

I do continue to support the bill that we passed in the House last fall and sent to the Senate. We know that the Members of this body are going to continue to stand solid that we need to secure our Nation's border first, first and foremost, and regain the trust and confidence of the American people, and make certain that they know that we value, we value, what this Nation stands for and that the sovereignty of this Nation indeed is worth fighting for.

As we talk about where we have concentrated our efforts through the first part of this year, I want to draw attention to a couple of things. We have passed tax relief. We have taken actions and the President signed into law last week the tax reconciliation bill which addressed some of the tax issues, extensions that we had passed previously. We know that there is a second bill that will come within the next few weeks as we address other extensions of tax reductions.

We know that these work. We know that tax reductions work, and we know that this has helped to fuel the economic growth that we are seeing in this country.

We know that the 18 quarters of sustained economic growth are because this economy is robust. We know that the Federal Government doesn't create jobs, it is the free enterprise system that creates these jobs. So, knowing this and realizing this, is the reason that we had the tax relief signed into law last week.

We have also passed a budget, a budget bill that for the second year in a row will put us on the path to deficit reduction. This is so important, Mr. Speaker. It is important for a couple of different reasons, because when we work toward reducing what the Federal Government spends, when we work toward reining in the size of the Federal Government, we know that that helps with our economy. We know that that is a step in the right direction.

You know, one of the things on our economy I do want to mention is that