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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. PRICE of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

June 19, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM PRICE 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 31, 2006, 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 California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

THE IRAQ RESOLUTION

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday and Friday, the House conducted a very important debate on the global war on terror. The resolution in question, H. Res. 861, honored the sacrifice of our soldiers and reaffirmed our commitment to victory in that global war on terror. I am very heartened that the House Republicans were joined by nearly a quarter of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, 42, to be exact, voting in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it was a spirited 10-hour debate, and over the course of it I

heard some criticisms that I believe deserve a response. Many in the minority objected to the resolution and the forum for its consideration. They contended that the resolution was hollow, and it did not allow for a meaningful debate on the war.

With such antipathy for the process and the resolution, one would have expected the Democratic leadership to ask for a vote on the previous question on the rule so that they could, in fact, amend it. In fact, they didn't. Or they might have offered a specific official substitute resolution which I, on several occasions over a 2-day period, said we would have considered making in order.

But, Mr. Speaker, they did neither. In fact, as I said, for over 2 days, I asked the Democratic leadership for an alternative. I was told that nothing would be forthcoming. While individual Members such as Mr. ABERCROMBIE did offer their own alternatives, the minority on the Rules Committee chose not to submit any of them as the official Democratic substitute.

Unfortunately, many Members chose to make this a debate about process, rather than the real issue at hand. After listening to the debate, I know why. The minority party has no clear position on how to win the global war on terror and prevail in Iraq. When it comes to the biggest challenge of our generation, they are not of one mind. Some agree with House Republicans that it is absolutely essential to stay in Iraq until we achieve victory. Unfortunately, the majority of Democrats favor retreat in one form or another, whether it is the vague policy of redeployment or outright and immediate withdrawal, as the Out of Iraq Caucus has called it.

This is a dangerous approach, Mr. Speaker. While perhaps intended to comfort our country in the midst of a truly devastating and trying struggle, it would serve chiefly to comfort the

enemy. We know that two decades of tepid responses to attacks on our citizens and our interests in Lebanon, Somalia, New York City, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Kenya and Yemen only emboldened terrorists. We will not make the same mistake again.

Mr. Speaker, the Iraqi people, its security forces and its government are not naive. Nor are we. Despite recent progress such as the killing of al Zarqawi and the completion of the Iraqi government's cabinet, calm is not just around the corner. The terrorists are unyielding. After all, their stated aim is to drive coalition forces out of the country and establish a territory-hungry, terrorist-friendly extremist state.

They have openly declared that the United States does not have the will to see the fight through. They understand the significance of this battle, and so must we. We must accept nothing but total engagement and commitment as we help Iraq stabilize herself and become an ally in the war on terror. We cannot fulfill our mission, honor the sacrifice of our troops and move forward in the war on terror by backing away from its central battlefield. In a region where democracy has the potential to become more than a hope, we cannot abandon its best hope.

Mr. Speaker, if we leave prematurely, and Iraq is allowed to become a lawless territory, sympathetic to terrorists, and brutal to its own people, the safety of the world and the security of the United States of America would be directly threatened.

On September 11, 2001, we saw exactly what could happen when such conditions were allowed to exist in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that some criticized the forum for our debate. As one Member described it, the 10 hours would be like a glorified special order.

But make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, our words matter. For proof, look no

□ 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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further than Zargawi's bombed-out safe house. In the rubble, a copy of Arabic Newsweek was found. Our enemies, the enemies of peace and freedom, are listening, they are reading, and they are waiting for signs of weakness and timidity in the face of their brutality.

With a vote in support of H. Res. 861, we gave them no such thing, and their kidnapping of our men and women will only strengthen our resolve. While there are significant differences between the majority and the minority on how to win the global war on terror, I am proud of both the process followed for conducting this debate and the overwhelming bipartisan vote to support our troops and complete the mission 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. today.

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. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

God our Father, Your care and wisdom are shown to us by the way You extend Your kingdom into our world down to the present day. Your word reveals every aspect of Your saving plan. You accomplish Your designed purpose in and through the hearts of the faithful who respond to You.

Today, convert our minds and hearts that we may become the great Nation You hope us to be. Help us to seek Your presence in the midst of a busy life, then animated by Your spirit help us to perform marvelous deeds and come to know peace, Your gift to the 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there are two strikingly different philosophies at work here in Washington. On one side are fiscally conservative Republicans who want to cut government spending and rein in the Federal deficit. On the other side are Democrats who believe that raising taxes and spending tax dollars solves all problems. But we all know better than that.

Republicans are the party of fiscal discipline, reform, and accountability. We have been working very hard to exercise fiscal restraint and keep taxes low, and our economy is thriving as a result.

Last week, The Wall Street Journal reported that surging individual and corporate tax receipts in May have helped to reduce the Federal budget deficit down 16.6 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Mr. Speaker, fiscal restraint and tax relief are stimulating the economy and increasing tax revenues. The Treasury Department predicts that if these Republican policies continue, we will cut the Federal deficit in half well before President Bush's goal of 2009.

TIMES PICTURE REVEALS WAR TRUTHS

(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, as a former journalist, I am saddened that much of the American media continues to play politics with the global war on terrorism, blame America, unfairly criticize our military, and bash President Bush.

By accident, the driveby the New York Times on Saturday published a front-page picture of a mosque bombing which reveals details that the newspaper frequently fails to explain. Troops are identified as Iraqi commandos, verifying Iraqis are capable and equipped. The shoe bomber was a coward, mass-murdering innocent Iraqi worshipers, and not promoting a just insurgency. The homicide bomber attacked an easy target of convenience, prevented by Iraqi and coalition troops from murdering in the streets of America.

From this picture, we can learn we must face the evil enemy overseas with our Iraqi allies, or American families will be more at risk at home. The only path to peace is victory in Iraq as the central front in the global war on terrorism.

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

HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR ILLEGALS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, news from the front: The battle for the border continues. The cost to Americans for the government's failure to prevent the invasion onto our shores increases. Last year in my hometown of Houston, citizens spent \$125 million on treating 57,000 illegals in local hospitals, a 77 percent increase from the previous year.

This nonsense that illegals are not a drain on the American taxpayer is a myth perpetrated by the admiral of the fleet of invaders, Vicente Fox. America cannot continue to be the lifeboat for the sinking ships of states south of the border. What happens when our lifeboat overflows because of America's compassion? In fact, Americans are paying for hospital costs for illegals and cannot afford to pay for their own health care. So until our shores are secure, and since we choose not to deny illegals health care, every time an illegal is treated at our hospital, deduct an equal amount of foreign aid from those ships of state who send their citizens here. Make Admiral Fox pay instead of the American citizens. And that's just the way it is.

FORT CAMPBELL

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the members of the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, which is there in my district. These are the men and women who were there when we eliminated Saddam's sons. They were on the ground when we eliminated Zargawi. They have always been there for America. And today, my colleagues, we need to be there for them.

Our missing soldiers are members of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne.

The past few days have been tough in Clarksville and Montgomery County where Fort Campbell is located. And to those families, we want them to know we are there with them, and I want everyone there to know that America mourns the loss of their colleague David, and we pray for the safe return of Kristian and Thomas.

America needs the 101st. We depend on the fighting men and women for our freedom, and their sacrifices and their losses pain this Nation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May God bless our troops.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair