

General Petraeus says that simply is not going to be possible, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats and the American people knew that this latest administration plan would not bring stability to Iraq. We also concluded long ago that we needed to start bringing our troops home. But with an administration that still refuses to face reality, we need help from our congressional Republicans.

Let us hope that the statements made by Senators LUGAR and VOINOVICH will serve as a wake-up call to House Republicans to finally join us in changing course in Iraq.

IMMIGRATION: THE UNACKNOWLEDGED THREAT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, illegal immigration poses an immediate threat to our national security. Proponents of the new Senate proposal claim it would encourage illegal aliens in the United States to reveal their true identity and all affiliations they may have. My colleagues, this flies in the face of all reason, particularly when this legislation provides potential terrorists in the United States the simple option to create new identities with the help of our own government.

Within 180 days after the President signs the legislation, the Department of Homeland Security would start handing out probationary Z visas. Because the bill doesn't require the alien to produce a foreign passport proving his identity, these terrorists will have little trouble getting by the system with forged documents like a fake pay stub or utility bills. A potential terrorist could walk into a Customs office and offer a false, clean name, and then go about their business. This is wrong, Mr. Speaker. That is why we should reject the Senate immigration bill.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF CONGRESSMAN MARTY MEEHAN

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend and colleague, MARTY MEEHAN, the chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. I would like to thank him on behalf of the committee for his distinguished service to our country and to the men and women who wear the uniform.

MARTY came to the House of Representatives in 1993 to represent the Fifth District of Massachusetts. He's worked tirelessly to encourage economic development in the area, to redevelop and maintain the military presence at Fort Devens, and to pre-

serve over 10,000 acres of open space in Massachusetts.

Additionally, MARTY was the lead Democrat sponsor of the Shays-Meehan-McCain-Feingold Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002.

MARTY has served on the Armed Services Committee since coming to the House of Representatives in the early 1990s. MARTY was the ranking member of the Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee and has been an active member of the Military Personnel Subcommittee, where MARTY has had a strong interest in helping Reservists and Guardsmen in their transition from military to civilian life.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, MARTY has led a bipartisan investigation into the development of the Iraqi Security Forces. The product of this investigation, a report on subcommittee's findings and recommendations, was unanimously agreed upon and signed by every member of that subcommittee. The report seeks to present information for the public debate and recommends increased transparency into the training of the Iraqi Security Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish MARTY MEEHAN the best of luck as he leaves this institution to serve as the next chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

IMMIGRATION REFORM MUST NOT INCLUDE AMNESTY FOR LAWBREAKERS

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, like the majority of my constituents, I believe that any and all attempts to enact immigration reform must not include amnesty for lawbreakers.

My constituents are tired of empty promises from Washington, DC, and we must address our Nation's immigration problems in a way that produces real results.

Many Americans are divided on what immigration reform should entail, but on one point almost all Americans agree. We must secure our borders. With a secured border, we can build on solutions to strengthen our country and maintain our heritage of embracing legal immigrants.

We need to create a work permit program that meets the evolving needs of today's agriculture industry. Serious reform is also needed to bring an end to the massive amount of bureaucratic red tape in our immigration system.

The crafters of the immigration bill currently being debated in the Senate are misguided on how to fix America's immigration problem. And on behalf of the American people, I urge my colleagues to secure our borders and enact commonsense immigration reforms.

WE MUST END THE WAR IN IRAQ NOW

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to others who are calling for an end to the war in Iraq. We must end this war, and we must end it now. We cannot wait and we must not wait.

Every month, every week, every hour, every minute, every second, every moment another young man is killed, another young woman is killed, another young American is killed, their innocent blood is on all of our hands. We have a moral obligation to bring this madness to an end.

Nothing, but nothing good can come out of this war. It is destroying Iraq, and it is destroying the very soul of our Nation.

As Members of Congress, we must find a way to stop it and stop it now.

□ 1030

THE DEMOCRATS' NEW ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I represent West Texas, which is the home of significant energy production.

Tomorrow the Democrats will roll out their new energy policy. As we evaluate these proposals, it is our job to challenge them. If these new proposals cost more American jobs than they create, let's challenge them. If these new proposals unnecessarily increase costs to American consumers, let's challenge those. If these new proposals make us more dependent on foreign sources of natural gas and crude oil than we currently are, let's challenge those. If these proposals really result in less energy for America, let's challenge those.

America's bright energy future lies not in new taxes and mandates, but in commonsense solutions.

HONORING JIM SHOULDERS

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

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jim Shoulders, a favorite son of Oklahoma who called my district home. He passed away on June 20 at the age of 79.

Mr. Shoulders rode his way to legendary status as a cowboy on the backs of bucking broncos and snorting bulls. Known as the "Babe Ruth of rodeo," Mr. Shoulders dominated the professional rodeo circuit during the 1940s and 1950s, rounding up seven world titles in bull-riding, four world crowns in bareback-riding, five all-round world championships, and three consecutive rodeo triple-crowns.

As great as he was during his prime, his humility always shown through. He liked to downplay his skills by saying that "all there is to bull-riding is to put one leg on each side of the bull and make an ugly face for 8 seconds."

Mr. Shoulders burst into the rodeo world in the 1940s, at the age of 14. While working the wheat harvest, he decided to take a break to watch a minor league rodeo nearby. He resolved to try it for himself and won the event as well as \$18. Between that \$18 start in the minor league rodeo and his elections to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, and the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame, he won an unprecedented 16 world championships. He is also the only professional cowboy to be honored in the Madison Square Garden Hall of Fame.

But the tough old cowboy was not only known for his exploits in the rodeo, he was also loved for his candid sense of humor, humbleness, loyalty, and toughness, everything Oklahomans are proud to be known for.

I stand today to honor and celebrate the life of Jim Shoulders, a great cowboy, a great Oklahoman, and a great man.

REPUBLICANS WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S EXCESSIVE SPENDING

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American public asked Congress to change their spending habits and to be more responsible with the people's money. Last fall, the majority party promised Americans greater fiscal responsibility and more spending restraint. I believe Congress needs to deliver a responsible Federal budget worthy of approval of the American public.

Unfortunately, the majority has only introduced legislation that has promised the largest tax increase in history, runaway entitlement spending, and an out-of-control appropriations process.

If Congress as a whole does not pledge to change, the American public will continue to be let down by the actions of the majority party.

The Republicans are not going to let them down, Mr. Speaker. I understand the immediate need for spending restraint and the Republicans will continue to oppose excessive spending by the majority party. Therefore, I will vote against H.R. 2643, the Interior and Environment appropriations bill, later today.

A SERIOUS COURSE CORRECTION NEEDED FOR IRAQ

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, Senator LUGAR, the former chairman and current ranking Repub-

lican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, went to the Senate floor and said that the President's troop escalation is not working. Then yesterday Republican Senator VOINOVICH said the U.S. should begin pulling troops out of Iraq so that people know we are indeed disengaging. But the President and his spokesman said, no, we need more troops and more time.

It has been clear for at least a year that a serious course correction is needed in Iraq. But, unfortunately, Republicans in this House of Representatives continue to rubber stamp the Bush administration's war policies. Democrats are changing the course of this misguided war, but with a stubborn President unwilling to face reality, congressional Republicans must break ranks with the President to do what is best for our Nation and for Iraq.

It is my hope that the congressional Republicans will seriously listen to their colleagues' comments and conclude, as Democrats already have, that we need to dramatically change our policy in Iraq.

RECOGNIZING FLOYD OLESEN OF ELK RIVER, MINNESOTA

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, there are so many great Americans in this country, especially unsung heroes and Americans who rise up to be a part of the solution of the greatness of this country. In Minnesota, we have so many people like that, and it is such an honor, Mr. Speaker, to be able to talk about one unsung hero. He is a wonderful man from the center part of the Sixth District of Minnesota. His name is Mr. Floyd Olesen, from an unassuming town named Elk River, Minnesota.

Floyd and his wife, Dilly, have done so much for the people of our Nation and for the people of our State. They started a program called "Operation Minnesota Nice," Mr. Speaker, where they send care packages to area troops from Minnesota who are currently serving both in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

Recently Floyd stepped down from that position so that he and Dilly could focus on a few other service-related activities. One is "Operation Help Support Our Troops & Families." Another is "Operation Military Kids." This provides educational opportunities for the children of active service personnel.

Recently Mr. Olesen received the American Legion 6th District Service Officer of the Year award. He is a wonderful American.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is so important that we encourage all Americans to do what they can, where they can, when they can, while they can to serve their fellow man. Mr. Olesen has done that and more.

Thank you, Floyd Olesen and Dilly, for what you do for American servicemen and women.

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concern about a dangerous precedent and irresponsible wrongdoing in this administration.

Recent media reports have revealed that the Office of the Vice President exempted itself from a presidential Executive Order created to protect national security information. Since 2003, the Vice President's office has refused to properly report whether they possess certain classified information and went so far as to block inspection of their office to find out. The Vice President justified the step by saying that his office was not part of the executive branch of government.

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that the rest of the executive branch complied with the order and properly reported their handling of critical classified information.

Mr. Speaker, I raise two serious objections to this practice. First, mishandling of classified data poses a grave and serious risk to our country and one should not take that lightly. And, second, as a former district attorney, I believe that no one is above the law. Rule of law must apply to everyone equally. How do we expect to enforce the law in localities when it is broken and held in ill regard at the highest levels of government? We must hold this administration, like all other Americans, accountable for their actions.

ANOTHER ENERGY BILL THAT DOESN'T PRODUCE AN OUNCE OF ENERGY

(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, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have been watching as we are pulling together this year's energy bill for the House; who is doing the cobbling; what they are including in the package, or, curiously, what they are leaving out.

This is the current House leadership's second attempt this session to produce an energy bill that would address our energy dependence on unstable parts of the world, our strategic vulnerabilities that arise from that dependence, and the disastrous effects that high energy prices have on our ability to retain and produce American jobs.

You would think that the Energy Committee would be a pretty good place to start on this. But last week, provisions in our committee's bill promoting additional energy production,