

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE 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 Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR 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 New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CODEL TO IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 14 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor of the House tonight having just returned from the country of Iraq yesterday afternoon. And even given the lateness of the hour, I wanted to come address the House because there are some issues that are, in fact, very timely and time-sensitive, and I thought it was important to get them spoken on the floor of the House.

My intention is to come back with the other Members who were on the trip with me, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, and talk about this in some depth in the weeks to come. Mr. KING of Iowa was also with us on the trip. But because of the late-

ness tonight and the lateness that we are likely to go tomorrow night and Thursday night, it may be next week before we can actually do that formal presentation, and there were some things that I wanted to get on the floor of the House this week.

Madam Speaker, I would report to the House that as of the third week of July 2007, it is still a very mixed report about the situation in Iraq. My overall impression from this latest trip is that significant successes have occurred and are likely to continue to occur as far as returning control of the country to the Iraqi Government and delivering it out of the hands of criminals and murderers. At the same time, it is still a very dangerous situation, and the sacrifice is very real.

Madam Speaker, the future of America is vastly different depending upon the outcome of what happens in the country of Iraq. A stable country, a country with a representational government, a country able to act as a partner for peace in the Middle East would be vastly preferable to a lawless land ruled by terrorists and criminals providing a base for training operations and, Madam Speaker, a source for funding for further enlargement of their activities.

Almost without question, the divergent future was on the minds of almost everyone I talked with during the 2-day trip. Certainly America's best interest is going to be served by stability in that country and with their active participation in stabilizing a very troubled region.

It has been just over a year since I last traveled to Iraq. A lot has changed both at home and in Iraq over that time. There is no question that the news reports coming out of Iraq have almost been universally pessimistic for about 10 months' time. I was obviously very concerned about what I would encounter upon my return to that country, but the trip made over the weekend, a Saturday and Sunday, a very condensed time frame with a great deal to see, we learned a great deal.

Starting with a 2 a.m. departure from the military airport in Kuwait City, we loaded on the C-130 for the flight into Baghdad. The plane was cramped and fully loaded. Already at 2:00 in the morning, it was over 90 degrees. The plane contained a large number of soldiers and marines who were returning to Baghdad. Because of the very early hour and the loudness of the aircraft, there was not much time for conversation; but after the plane landed and the engines were stopped, there was a brief episode where conversation was possible.

For most, this was their second or third rotation. Their deployments had been extended through 15 months, and most would not go home for almost a year from that point. When several who were standing next to me learned who I was, there was obviously an eagerness for conversation.

Since February, there has been a change in how they have done their

work. Now most were placed alongside Iraqi soldiers in smaller groups around town. They were no longer attached to the larger, more protected bases, and the soldiers were clearly seeing a greater amount of activity, and it concerned them.

I spoke in some depth with the soldier in front of me. He had 10 months left in his rotation, and sometimes he wondered if the generals knew what they were up against in this deployment. He complained about the long hours and the heat. He complained about being separated from his family. He had been reading a book on the plane, and I asked him about this. He said it was a book about philosophy, so I naturally assumed that upon leaving the Army at the end of his deployment, he would likely return to school, or perhaps he had a job waiting for him, and I asked him about this. He looked at me strangely. "Well, I just reenlisted for 5 years," he said tersely.

We left the plane and parted ways. He got on an armored convoy, and we were loaded in Blackhawk helicopters for the next leg of our trip down to Ramadi. It was still very early in the morning, and the sun was barely breaking through the low dust layer that always seems to hang over Baghdad in the summer. The temperature was already in excess of 100 degrees, but in many ways my conversation with this soldier underscored the ambiguities, the inconsistencies, and the incongruous nature of life in Iraq.

Over the next 48 hours, we would see stories of great heroism and great hope. At the same time, the frustration of buying time and space for a young government, sometimes a dysfunctional government, of a war-torn country was underscored at several junctures.

From a military perspective, success has been made and continues to be made on a near daily basis. Indeed, the primary enemy, al Qaeda, has not only been beaten, but vanquished every time there has been an encounter. And because of the increased military activity, the encounters have been more frequent. At the same time, a very young government seems to have already developed entrenched bureaucracies because of the centralized nature of the government in Iraq. As military successes are happening around the country, aid from the central government is slow to be dispatched out to the outlying communities.

As is probably the case with every other conflict in our Nation's history, there are widely distributed data points, and one can take one or two of these and make virtually any argument that one wishes to make. It takes a more disciplined outlook to analyze the data, look at the trendlines, but that is a discipline that must be exercised.

Madam Speaker, the city of Ramadi in the al-Anbar Province in Western Iraq was the first stop for us on Saturday. This is a city the size of Fort

Worth, Texas, back in my home district. One year ago when I was in Iraq, Ramadi was held by insurgent representatives of al Qaeda. In July of 2006, there would have been no way for a congressional delegation to travel to this city as it would have been seen as too dangerous a mission.

But things began to change last February. The historic tribal leaders began to clearly understand that life alongside al Qaeda was not going to improve; and in a stunning reversal, the town's leaders began to seek out and embrace American protection. Popular support was now no longer available to al Qaeda in a city that had been destined to be the provincial capital of the resurgent Caliphate. This represented a striking strategic failure for the enemy. Their shadow government which had intended to establish a capital of a radical Islamic state was forced out of the city, and, indeed, subsequent armed attempts to retake control were successfully repelled. People in town began identifying where the terrorists lived, who was making the bombs, who was putting the city and their daily lives in jeopardy.

Now, the task of rebuilding a civil society, the municipal government has certainly significant tasks ahead of it. And, Madam Speaker, I might add to that it was the additional soldiers and marines provided by what is called the surge last February, particularly the soldiers of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Unit force just north of al-Anbar, that made a lot of this possible. They intercepted the vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices as they were on their way down to Ramadi; they found the factories where these were manufactured, and were able to provide additional breathing space and additional room as the city was recon- trolled by the Americans.

Because of the distance from Baghdad and the central government, there has been some isolation, and significant efforts have been made by the Army to ensure that the local mayor has the ability to provide for his citizens. And this, Madam Speaker, underscores one of the real difficulties ahead for this country. As areas are reclaimed and stabilized, the central government must be able to quickly provide the financial and security support that will be required to sustain this early success.

This also underscores one of the important recognized benchmarks, that of holding the provincial elections. During the electoral process 2 years ago, most of the Sunni population was involved in an electoral boycott. Now they see the fundamental error of that decision, and they are eager to see new elections that would permit a more popular representation.

After 2 or 3 years of serious brutality at the hands of al Qaeda, the population now sees America as helpers and sees Americans as protectors. The tribal leaders had originally feared that Americans were occupiers, that they

would stay forever, but now they have come to understand that the Americans have no such interests. The same could not be said for al Qaeda's interests. Their clear intent was to hold the town for their purposes for the foreseeable future.

The point was made during our visit that there are no overnight solutions to the problems in Iraq. Leadership cannot be bought, and this has to be an evolutionary change. But this change can occur if the correct environment is provided.

As if to underscore the recent success in Ramadi, we were taken out of the military base, down the main street of town, right into the marketplace. We were permitted to walk freely in the marketplace and observed many of the items for sale in what appears to be a very normal Arab market.

Madam Speaker, I did provide a photograph from that visit, and here you can see again one of the stalls of the market. You can see the goods for sale, the pots and pans up there, coolers for water or whatever other beverage one might want to have. You can see the smiles on the young children. They didn't know we were going to come to town that day; it just happened that we showed up, and they were apparently glad to see us. You see the men there bargaining in the background. It doesn't really look like a street scene of people that are under great stress or duress. It looks like a normal marketplace with normal people doing normal Saturday-morning activities.

The vehicle you see just a portion up here at the edge of the photograph was actually a municipal vehicle, a city vehicle. They were repairing one of the sewer lines in the street. Many of the sewer lines and water lines in this town had been broken by improvised explosive devices that had gone off during the more active and kinetic phases of the retaking of the city from the al Qaeda groups. But it wasn't Americans who were out repairing the sewer pipe, it was actually the municipal government of the city of Ramadi who was taking care of that task, as they should, as is appropriate for a municipal government, the appropriate way for a municipal government to behave.

I would also point out some of the clothing that is for sale.

Madam Speaker, I just have to say in this trip to Iraq one of the things I saw that really struck me as being significantly different from other trips, not just in Ramadi, but in Baghdad and some of the other areas we visited, many more women were in evidence out on the streets and out in public, significantly different from other times when I have been there. And I take that as a good sign, a good sign as for the resurgence of civil society.

But there is pretty striking evidence of the prior combat in the town all around us. But the evidence of active reconstruction and a crew working on the sewer line in the middle of the street as we walked through town real-

ly again gave me some hope that there was some stability for these young children.

And let me talk about the future for a moment. That is a future that these young men now have that actually was going to be denied to them just a few short months ago. And, again, you can see the look of curiosity on these boys' faces. This boy is not quite sure whether to smile or run away. But, nevertheless, these kids were all over in the marketplace.

And you see back there again some of the brightly colored glass and things that weren't for sale in the market. I don't know where these shirts came from; presumably that represents some sort of local sports team. But, again, a very different scene in Ramadi today than would have been evident a year ago.

When I returned yesterday, one of the things that I encounter in the headline in the Washington Times was also of encouragement to me. We had spent some time during the trip on Saturday at a place called Camp Taji, which is north of Iraq.

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Camp Taji is where a good number of our soldiers are stationed, a lot of our National Guardsmen are stationed. And again, Camp Taji, the same situation: they've moved soldiers out the relatively large base. They've moved out to work with the Iraqi units, to work in the towns. And one of the things we learned on that trip through there this weekend, the commander told us that there had just been a meeting with 150 sheiks, both Sunni and Shia, and the reason for the meeting, the meeting was called by the sheiks. They wanted to meet with the American military, and the reason for that meeting was they wanted this same type of success for their communities. They wanted to ask if the same type of return to civil society that is going on, that's breaking out in the country of Ramadi, they wanted to know if it was possible in their communities. And, again, not just Sunni leaders, Shia leaders as well.

And I'll quote from yesterday's, this is the Washington Times from Monday, July 23, 2007. And it says: "U.S. forces have brokered an agreement between Sunni and Shia tribal leaders to join forces against al Qaeda and other extremists extending a policy that has transformed the security situation in western Anbar province, and they wanted to extend that to this area north of the capital."

A startling story. We just heard about this on Saturday when we were there. In fact, I was kind of given the impression that it was so new that maybe we shouldn't talk about it. But here it is on the front page of the Washington Times, so I'm going to assume it is okay to bring that up. Very significant because, of course, in the Sunni areas of Iraq, al Qaeda's dominant. In the Shia areas the Mahdi

Army from Maktadar al Sadr was dominant. Neither one of these groups is seen as really furthering the common interests of the country of Iraq, and both Sunni and Shia were asking for help from the Americans.

Another headline that greeted me Monday morning when I woke up in Germany on the way back, one of the generals, General Mixon, has proposed a shift in strategy in Iraq. He says, they're so calm up north, maybe we should be able to bring some of our troops from up north down to the areas around Baghdad to provide additional security there because, quite frankly, they're not needed in Nineveh province. They're not needed in these areas where just a year ago there was significant terrorist activity occurring and United States troops were required.

Madam Speaker, you have been very generous with the time. I hope to be back here next week with the other members of the congressional delegation that went to Iraq. We'll talk a great deal more about this subject, but some of these issues were time sensitive and I wanted to get them on the record while they were still very relevant.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACHUS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and July 23 on account of illness.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for July 23 on account of attending the State of Northern Kentucky address.

Mr. PENCE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family medical reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURGESS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, July 31.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, July 31.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1856. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to make technical corrections to the new border tunnels and passages of fence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July, 25, 2007, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2623. A letter from the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of intent to obligate funds for three additional projects for the Fiscal Year 2007 Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2350a(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2624. A letter from the Acting Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the decision to convert to contract the aircraft line maintenance functions in China Lake, CA; Lemoore, CA; San Diego, CA; Jacksonville, FL; Mayport, FL; Patuxent River, MD; Norfolk, VA; Virginia Beach, VA; and Oak Harbour, WA, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2625. A letter from the Chief, Congressional Action Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of the decision to initiate a multi-function standard competition of the Noncore Enterprise Communications Function at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2626. A letter from the Chief, Congressional Action Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of the decision to initiate a multi-function standard competition of the Core Enterprise Communications Function at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2627. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Report to Congress on the Plutonium Storage at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, pursuant to Public Law 107-314, section 3183; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2628. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Colonel Stephen R. Lanza to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2629. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the omission of the SSN from the Department of Defense military identification cards, pursuant to Public Law 109-364, section 585; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2630. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of De-

fense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the next higher grade in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2631. A letter from the Director, National Defense Research Institute, transmitting a copy of the report entitled, "F-22A Multi-Year Procurement Program: An Assessment of Cost Savings," pursuant to Public Law 109-364, section 134; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2632. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the quarterly report of obligations and outlays of FY 2004, FY 2005 and FY 2006 funds under the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through September 30, 2006, pursuant to Division D, Pub. L. 108-199; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2633. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 073-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2634. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment from the Government of Belgium (Transmittal No. RSAT-01-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2635. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with section 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313, a report prepared by the Department of State on the progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1, 2007 through May 31, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2636. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2637. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting the 2006 management report and statements on system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2638. A letter from the Legislative Counsel, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "To clarify the authorities for the use of certain National Park Service properties within Golden Gate National Recreational Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2639. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200, A330-300, A340-200, and A340-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-27013; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-236-AD; Amendment 39-15022; AD 2007-08-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2640. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; EADS SOCATA Model TBM 700 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2006-26233; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-63-AD; Amendment