

What's next? Is the Air Force going to outsource those airplane crews with the French as well?

And that's just the way it is.

AVOID MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH IRAN

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, any voice of reason inside the current administration is a voice in the wilderness, a voice that will be silenced by the President, all of which should be a matter of grave urgency for the American people.

The administration has set its sights on military confrontation with Iran. Just like Iraq, any voice of reason will not be merely muffled; it will be silenced.

Remember Colin Powell? Where is he? Remember General Shinseki? He was drummed out for speaking truth to power about what it would really take to win in Iraq.

Now Admiral Fallon, the Secretary of Defense, wouldn't return phone calls until the Admiral got the message to turn in his resignation because he questioned the President's policy toward Iran.

The President's foreign policy is open hostility and a finger on the trigger looking for any provocation for a military strike against Iran. That's what the neocons want; that's what co-President DICK CHENEY wants.

Their thirst for oil is matched only by their thirst for war. They think the U.S. will dominate the world with military confrontation. They are the only ones who believe that. We must keep the pressure on to ensure the President does not launch another war. Four thousand have already died.

That's enough.

THE HIGH SPRINGS FARMERS MARKET

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the contributions of High Springs Farmers Market, which is in my congressional district.

It was established in 2001. The market provides local growers with an opportunity to sell their products directly to consumers and to provide area residents with high quality, fresh produce and other farm products at affordable prices.

This market then has encouraged and assisted local residents to grow fresh produce through a community garden program, and it provides training and entrepreneurial opportunities for the new growers. By promoting local Florida products, this market allows traditional farmers to sell in today's competitive market.

In addition, the High Spring Farmers Market is the first and only market in the State of Florida to accept food stamps, providing high-quality, fresh food to those who otherwise could not afford it.

I am grateful for the market's dedication to the entrepreneurial spirit and am proud to have it in my district. Congratulations to them and keep up the great work.

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS

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

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of access to colorectal cancer screening for all Americans. The month of March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Like far too many other Americans, my life has been touched by cancer. Nine years ago I lost my mother, Janna, to colon cancer. I understand too well the importance of catching this type of cancer early. Colorectal cancer is one of the leading killers in the United States that will this year unnecessarily take the lives of almost 50,000 of our constituents nationwide.

This is a tragedy because we have every tool necessary to prevent the suffering and death from this disease. Only 22 States and the District of Columbia have protections in place to provide access to screening and early detection procedures for colorectal cancer. This is unacceptable. Life-saving tests that are widely available and reliable should be accessible to each and every one of our constituents.

Please join me in recognizing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and the importance of making early detection of this disease a priority.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR 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. Madam Speaker, on this fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq being commemorated in the Capitol today, the statistics tell the tale.

Because of the military surge and Sunni cooperation, we are making significant progress towards stability and freedom in Iraq. Violence is down nationwide by more than 60 percent in the last year.

But as the saying goes, seeing is believing, and thanks to the miracle of youtube.com, Americans can join me for a walk down the streets of Haditha, Iraq, in the heart of al Anbar province. On March 2, with a military security detail and our bipartisan delegation, we walked the streets of this war-torn city, and I posted 15 minutes of unedited interviews with local Iraqis on youtube.com.

The fight is far from over, but we are making significant progress in Iraq.

Thanks to youtube.com, the American people can hear and see that progress for themselves.

HONORING KAREN BASS

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the newly elected Speaker of the California State Assembly, the Honorable Karen Bass. It is with great pleasure that I applaud her accomplishments and wish her future much success.

At the end of this legislative year, Karen Bass will break historic glass ceilings in California and across this Nation by becoming the first African American woman Speaker of the State legislative body.

Speaker-elect Karen Bass, who is respected on both sides of the aisle, received unanimous support. Throughout her career, her public service and social justice has been something that she commonly really used not only in her community but now in her service. In 1990, Speaker-elect Bass founded the Community Coalition for Substance Abuse, Prevention and Treatment. She served as its executive director for 14 years. After the 1992 civil unrest, her organization played a pivotal role in the success of South Los Angeles.

Speaker-elect Bass turned to politics when she concluded that the best way to implement change would be to be an elected official herself. At the time of her election, there were no other African American women serving in the California Legislature. She was immediately appointed majority whip, and now she serves as majority leader.

Please join me in congratulating her as we wish her tremendous success.

THE PRICE OF OIL

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, energy security is national security. When President Bush was sworn into office, a barrel of crude oil was approximately \$27 a barrel. When the Democrats took over the House, the price of a barrel of crude oil was \$58, a \$31 increase.

Since this Democrat-controlled House has been in power, the price of a barrel of crude oil has gone from \$35 to today \$110 a barrel of crude oil.

Now, what's the solution? The solution is more supply. Democrats continue to block Outer Continental Shelf exploration. They continue to block oil exploration. They continue to block coal-to-liquid technologies.

More supply brings lower prices. If you know basic economics supply and demand, you know that if you have a high demand you need more supply.

Until we bring more supply back into this debate, the only thing we could

tell our consumers and our constituents is be prepared for more price spikes. Energy security is national security.

HONORING OTTO SCHNELLBACHER AND THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

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

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today because earlier this week the House passed H.R. 948 to recognize the University of Kansas football team on their astonishing accomplishments of the last season and their victory at the Orange Bowl.

I also rise this morning with great sadness because just this Monday KU lost one of its great all-time athletes. Otto Schnellbacher was an all-American who, in 1948, led KU to its very first Orange Bowl appearance. He was a wide receiver whose career 58 catches was a record for almost three decades. As a professional athlete, he played in both the NFL and the NBA.

This man was an American and an astonishing athlete. Otto was a giant of Kansas athletics. He was a very good friend. He leaves behind many admirers and a legacy that will last forever.

To the University of Kansas, congratulations again on a historic season. To Otto Schnellbacher, we will miss you. To his widow, Jane, God be with you.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, we are voting later today on the Democrat budget.

I am not surprised that it represents larger government and higher taxes. That is the type of government our friends on the other side of the aisle generally prefer. I am surprised, however, that at a time when our economy is shaky and American families are making difficult budget decisions at their kitchen table, that our friends have chosen not to make the difficult decisions necessary to craft a responsible budget.

Their proposal represents what will be the largest tax increase in American history; \$683 billion in increased taxes. It is nothing short of irresponsible to simply ignore the coming fiscal crisis, a tsunami, represented by increased spending and entitlement programs.

Perhaps if our friends on the other side of the aisle would ask their constituents what they think, they would hear what I heard from a constituent named Debra in Pennsylvania who said she is working two jobs to pay taxes and oil bills. She said, "There is no way I can afford to pay more taxes. Enough is enough."

Well said, Debra.

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SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express in the strongest terms possible my opposition to President Bush's proposed budget for 2009, a budget that simply does not reflect our traditional American values. The Republican budget would sink us deeper into debt and will destroy Medicare and Medicaid as we know them. Everything, everything the President says he is, he is not. And with the help of his party, the President is doing what Germany and Japan could not do in World War II, destroying our Nation.

The question America voters must ask is: Whose side are we on? Does anyone in this Chamber seriously intend to cut Community Service Block Grants, Community Oriented Policing, the Centers for Disease Control, NIH, the FAA, and Social Service Block Grants? These are essential people-oriented programs that serve as our Nation's social safety net, and we must invest in them.

Join me in supporting the Democratic budget. Let's invest our hard-earned tax dollars right here at home in America based upon our traditional American values.

FISA: FACT VERSUS FICTION

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, President Bush and the congressional Republicans refuse to face the facts on the expiration of the President's Protect America Act, and instead continue their false and misleading scare tactics that are not productive and will do nothing to protect our Nation.

Republicans continue to claim that the expiration of the Protect America Act has reduced our ability to conduct surveillance. That is false, and Republicans know it. They know that the Protect America Act gave the intelligence community authorization for one full year, meaning that they are all still in effect until August of this year.

If Republicans really believed that the expiration of the act would jeopardize our national security, why did every single Republican Member of this body vote against a 21-day extension of the act last month?

Washington Republicans can't have it both ways. Rather than resorting to political games, congressional Republicans should have joined bicameral negotiations that were conducted for several weeks to develop a strong compromise bill. It is time that the Republicans get off the sidelines and work with our Congress. Let's see this legislation come to the floor today.

DEMOCRATS' FISA BILL PROTECTS AMERICA

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

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, later today the House will have an opportunity to vote on a strong new FISA bill that has been negotiated over the last couple of weeks.

The new legislation will modernize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. First, it rejects the President's plan to provide blanket immunity to telecom companies who turned over information about their customers. Instead, it gives the Federal court the exclusive opportunity to hear clear classified evidence in order to make a determination whether telecom companies should be held liable for their actions.

Our legislation also requires a special bipartisan commission to investigate the Bush administration's use of wiretaps and other surveillance programs. The commission would be similar to the bipartisan 9/11 Commission that played a critical role in reviewing the events leading up to 9/11 and developing recommendations on how to best protect our Nation.

Madam Speaker, House Democrats are hopeful that Republicans will join us in supporting a FISA bill that protects our Nation and our civil liberties.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)1 of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

H. RES. —

Whereas on December 11, 2007, a bipartisan group of 21 State attorneys general wrote to Senate Majority Leader Reid and Senate Minority Leader McConnell regarding the FISA Amendments Act of 2007 (S. 2248);

Whereas this bipartisan group of State attorneys general represents the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin;

Whereas the State attorneys general stated that protecting communications carriers from "unprecedented legal exposure is essential to domestic and national security. State, local and federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies rely heavily on timely and responsive assistance from communications providers and other private parties; indeed, this assistance is utterly essential to the agencies' functions. If carriers and other parties run the risk of facing massive litigation every time they assist the government or law enforcement, they will lack incentives to cooperate, with potentially devastating consequences for public safety";

Whereas on February 5, 2008, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified before the Senate Select Committee on