

inspection, CNN crew in tow, without regard for the potential for backlash against herself. The Minister for Human Rights shut the prison down 2 months later.

I am pleased that the State Department and Secretary Clinton singled out Ms. Allami for her work. My only wish is that more women, whose bravery occurs every single day, hour by hour, through their acts of courage and just living in Iraq, would receive the same recognition.

The women of Iraq have shown amazing strength and courage. I hope that with the redeployment of our troops and military contractors, all Iraqis will have the hope and security of a prosperous new future.

BORDER WAR CONTINUES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I bring you news from the second front; that is, the border between the United States and Mexico.

This past weekend, I was the guest of two of our border sheriffs in Texas, Sheriff Oscar Carrillo from Culberson County, Texas, and Sheriff Arvin West from Hudspeeth County, Texas. These two massive counties are the size of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island put together. They are the two counties just east of El Paso County.

I was there to see the situation on the Texas-Mexico border firsthand by the people who help protect the border, and that is the border sheriffs, along with the Border Patrol. Smugglers that are coming across from Mexico, bringing in drugs, are relentless in their endeavor to bring narcotics into the United States.

The cross-border travelers that are captured in these two counties, most of the people in the county jails, are these foreign nationals bringing drugs or committing other crimes. Let me make this clear: Most of the people in these two county jails are foreigners that have committed felonies or misdemeanors in the United States. In fact, Arvin West told me that if he didn't have cross-border travelers in his county jail, he wouldn't need a jail, except one cell for one person. There are over 500 people in the county jails that are foreign nationals. So that's how bad the problem is continuing to be.

The drug cartel are smugglers, Mr. Speaker. They smuggle into the United States not only drugs, but people. It is all intertwined. And all because of money, they are bringing those individuals and those drugs into the country. But also, they smuggle back to Mexico two commodities, and the two commodities they smuggle are guns and money. They are in the smuggling business. They are very well organized.

Sara Carter, from the Washington Times, reports that the drug cartels

have in their employment over 100,000 foot soldiers; that's just a little bit less than the entire Mexican Army. They have better vehicles, they have better weaponry, and they have a whole lot more money than our border protectors do on this side. They have gotten so sophisticated now that they don't let any drugs come into the United States unless they're tracked by GPS devices.

The drug runners are committed—it's almost a religion to them—to bring drugs into the United States. Let me give you an example of that.

I understand now, after being down on the border, the sheriffs were telling me that the drug runners pray to a narco saint—that's right—Jesus Malverde. He was an individual that died in 1909. He was supposed to be a Mexican national that helped the poor, et cetera. But now there are shrines in different parts of Mexico where these drug runners in the drug cartels pray to this individual for safety in crossing the border into the United States so they can bring drugs. He's supposed to be the patron saint of travelers—I thought it was St. Christopher. But be that as it may, it shows how relentless these people are. Now, just to clarify, the Catholic Church says Jesus Malverde is not a saint, has never been, and never will be. But it shows you that it is a religion to these people to bring drugs and other people into the country.

But there is also good news from the border. The border county sheriffs, the 20 county sheriffs in Texas, have put up cameras along the border, and those cameras are tied to the Internet. And so a person can log on to a Web site called blueservo.net, and they can actually see these cameras and they can track people coming into the United States. They have had over 43,000 people log in just since this thing started a few weeks ago, and they are as far away as Australia. An Australian was watching it, and he sent an e-mail to the head of this association and said, hey mate, we've been watching your border from Australia and trying to help out you guys.

So, what is occurring is, if somebody sees traffic—drug smugglers, illegals, whatever—coming into the United States, they have a Web site, an e-mail, and they can e-mail the border sheriff in that county, and either the sheriffs or the Border Patrol goes out and arrests the bad guys coming into the country. Just as this has started, four major drug busts have occurred, and 30 incidents where illegal crossers were coming in were repelled and they went back across the border. Of course the cynics in the open-border crowd are against this; they're against anything that seems to work.

I want to commend the Border Sheriffs Coalition, the 20 of them, especially Oscar Carrillo, Arvin West and Sigi Gonzalez, because they are doing a job that is a thankless job, but it is important to protect the integrity of the United States.

And what we need to do is to help them by putting more people, more boots on the ground, more Border Patrol, more sheriff's deputies, and even the National Guard, if necessary, to help them.

I would like to insert into the RECORD the 20 border sheriffs in Texas that are protecting the border.

And that's just the way it is.

TEXAS BORDER SHERIFFS COALITION

Brewster County—Ronny Dodson
Cameron County—Omar Lucio
Culberson County—Oscar Carrillo
Dimmit County—Joel Gonzales
El Paso County—Richard Wiles
Hidalgo County—Guadalupe Trevino
Hudspeeth County—Arvin West
Jeff Davis County—Thomas Roberts
Kinney County—Leland Burgess
Maverick County—Thomas Herrera
Pecos County—Cliff Harris
Presidio County—Danny Dominguez
Starr County—Rene Fuentes
Terrell County—Clint McDonald
Val Verde County—Joe Martinez
Webb County—Martin Cuellar
Zapata County—Sigifredo Gonzalez
Zavala County—Eusevio Salinas
Willacy County—Larry Spence
Jim Hogg County—Erasmo Alarcon

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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES 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 (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

WHERE IS THE TARP MONEY GOING?

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. Mr. Speaker, the people of this country last year saw us appropriate \$700 billion for what they called TARP. And that money was supposed to be used to help out financial institutions that were in difficult trouble. It was also supposed to help out with the home problem, the houses that were being foreclosed on. And those of us in Congress that didn't support it said we didn't support it because there was no plan. We didn't know where the money was going to be spent.

So today we had a hearing on this. And during that hearing we asked

questions about where the money was allocated and who got it and what they did with it. And we found out some very interesting things. Eight billion dollars was loaned from the TARP money to Citigroup—they got a lot more than that, I think they got about \$35 or \$40 billion—but Citigroup loaned \$8 billion from the TARP funds to Dubai. Dubai is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, and their public sector borrowed \$8 billion from Citigroup, here in the United States, that had just gotten about \$30 or \$40 billion from the taxpayers in the TARP funds. And that just made my hair stand on end. Why would the taxpayers in this country want to give money to Citigroup and then have them turn right around and loan it to Dubai, half-way around the world, which is a very wealthy country? One billion dollars was invested by the J.P. Morgan Treasury Services in development of cash management and trade finance solutions in India. There's another billion, another thousand million dollars, that J.P. Morgan took from the American taxpayer in the TARP funds and then loaned it to an organization called Trade Finance Solutions in India.

And then \$7 billion was invested by the Bank of America in the China Construction Bank Corporation. Now, China has quite a bit of our money already and quite a bit of our business, and I don't know why in the world American taxpayers should be having their money that is given to the Bank of America to keep them afloat to be given or loaned to the China Construction Bank Corporation. It just doesn't make any sense to me.

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We had \$700 billion that was put into the TARP fund. Of the \$700 billion, there are only about eight or nine places that we know where the money went. There are another 297 places that are unaccounted for. We had a hearing today to try to find out where the money went and what it went for, and we couldn't find it, but we know that there are 297 areas where we don't have any idea what the money was used for or where it went.

In addition to that, we had other expenses or places where we put our money. We put \$14 billion into the auto bailout, and there's going to be another \$30 billion in that before this is over; \$780 billion, I believe it was, that went into the account that was supposed to stimulate the economy, the stimulus bill, and that is almost another trillion dollars. We passed a \$410 billion supplemental yesterday, and we're going to pass a \$3.6 trillion budget before too long that's going to include 660 some billion dollars for a new socialized national health care program.

The reason I bring all this up, my colleagues, is because I think the American people and my colleagues ought to know that we are spending trillions of dollars of taxpayers' money, and in many, many cases we

don't have a clue where it went. And I think that this government and this administration and the Congress should demand, demand, that the TARP funds and all the other funds that are being expended by the taxpayer to take care of these financial institutions to keep our economy above water and to help bail out homeowners who are losing their homes ought to be accounted for. Most of that money so far, as far as I can tell, isn't doing anything to stimulate economic growth or to help the homeowners or the financial institutions to solve this problem.

And in addition to that, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Geithner, said that they're going to have to put another \$2 to \$3 trillion into the financial institutions to keep them buoyed up and survivable.

Now, just add all that together in your mind and you're looking at \$5 or \$6 or \$7 trillion, and that money is not there. We're going to have to print it. It's going to be passed on to our kids in the form of tax increases or inflation. We need to have an accounting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

OUR HEALTH CARE FINANCING SYSTEM

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our health care financing system in America is broken. We have the best health care system in the world, but the financing system is going to degrade, and it's going to wreck the quality of health care if we don't do something about it.

I come before you this evening and talk about this issue that is of vital importance to everyone in this body and every American, and that is health care.

The new administration has stated that health care reform is going to be their main priority for the rest of the year, and I applaud the administration for undertaking this ambitious endeavor to finally reform this broken system of health care financing.

Our current health care system, with a reliance on third-party, or employer-provided, insurance, is a relic of World War II. As time marches on, we are finding that individual patients, which should be the primary concern of any health care system, are being relegated to the back seat in the decision-making process, leaving it up to their physicians to try to obtain payment from insurance providers, with varying degrees of success. In fact, insurance bu-

reaucrats, both government and private, are currently making health care decisions and are already rationing health care, and these folks are not even medically trained.

Instead, if true health care reform is to be at all successful, we must refocus our efforts on putting patients front and center in all decisions that relate to their health. The patient and the physician should be deciding the best course of action as it relates to the patient, just as the patient should be the main arbiter with their insurance provider. Once people are finally allowed to assume responsibility for their own medical well-being, they will be able to demand upfront an explanation of charges for potential tests and procedures. Only in a fully patient-centered system can we bring the market forces of accountability and transparency into the health care system that exists in other areas of our economy.

I envision a way in which we can build a vibrant health care system in our country, where physicians are free to practice medicine without the massive government burdens that our current health care system weighs them down with. Our new system will still have a vital place for a third-party payment structure to cover extraordinary or even catastrophic procedures. But the basic tenet must be simple and straightforward: The patient must always come first, and the patient must ultimately be responsible for their own health care well-being.

The task set before us is enormous, but it is attainable. Failure is not an option, but a fate worse than failure for the future of our country and its people is absolutely making the wrong choice.

I cannot stress this enough. Our country's health care system must not follow the ill-advised example of other western countries, specifically France, England, and Sweden, with an utter reliance on the government to provide health care for every individual. This is socialism in its most basic form and is directly responsible for burdening these countries with such massive financial obligations that the only remedies are radical changes and cuts or bankruptcy. Not to mention that the standard of care that these countries provide is an inferior one.

True, our current health care system is rapidly going bankrupt and bankrupting every American in the process. But we spend 2½ times more money than any other country in the world right now. Just imagine how much we'll spend if we follow Europe's lead and totally socialize our health care system.

So we must not follow their reckless example as we work to change our own health care financing. But we must not waver either in the face of this enormous task set before us. And make no mistake about its enormity.

I have never encountered a problem, except for national defense, where a solution from the government has turned