

more detailed interagency coordination, and more frequent practice exercises to prepare first responders for the real thing, many of these deaths could be prevented. But this requires adequate funding.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be a better way, a more intelligent way, a way to prevent the needless deaths of the men and women who are our first line of defense. And there is. I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stand for Sensible Multi-lateral American Response to Terrorism.

Instead of spending billions on new bunker buster nuclear weapons and the President's beloved missile defense system, which would not provide an effective defense against a full frontal missile attack, SMART security calls for stronger and smarter investment abroad in peacekeeping and conflict prevention programs, and at home a homeland security program that provides first responders with the equipment and tools they need to provide security to their community.

SMART security means supplying adequate funds for first responders. We should be providing them with the exact equipment they need, the exact equipment and tools they are requesting. The Bush doctrine of misplaced priorities has been tried, and it has failed miserably. It is time for a new national security strategy.

SMART security defends America by relying on the very best of America, including the brave men and women who offer their time, their bravery, sometimes their very lives, to provide the first line of defense in times of catastrophe. Being smart about our Nation's security means recognizing that real security starts at home with our first responders.

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

(Mr. GINGREY 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 California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

THE BIG LIE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this administration is out of control. They have made obeying the law a thing of the past.

They have implemented "the big lie" theory of communications. This theory takes propaganda to a whole new level.

Under the big lie, you fabricate a story and call it the truth. You disseminate the story as widely as possible. You wrap the propaganda in the mantle of national symbols, and you prey upon the fears and emotions of your citizens. You repeat the propaganda every day in every way. You say it over and over and over again, knowing if you say it long enough people will believe it.

Anyone who dares to question the propaganda becomes the enemy. Any evidence to the contrary is hidden, called tainted or dismissed as the work of your enemies.

This is a portrait of America today painted by this administration. In the face of overwhelming evidence presented by members of its own party, the administration keeps reporting the same old false story. They say anything, and they have.

War Secretary Don Rumsfeld first told the American people, we do not have to abide by the Geneva Conventions. Then after Abu Ghraib he said, America supports the Geneva Conventions.

Now the truth emerges. Rumsfeld personally ordered an Iraqi suspect held in solitary confinement at a secret location for 7 months. The inmate was hidden from the International Red Cross and any other human rights organization. Rumsfeld made someone disappear. Rumsfeld personally committed a violation of the Geneva Conventions that is so egregious, it could qualify as a war crime.

Rumsfeld has not had time yet to blame some soldiers and throw them overboard like he continues to do with the soldiers in Abu Ghraib. And the blame game is in full swing over at the White House.

Now even members of the President's own Republican Party are joining me on the enemies list. The bipartisan 9/11 Commission issued a key finding: there is no credible evidence linking Iraq and al Qaeda to attacks on America. It is not there. Saddam was a thug, but not a bin Laden pal. The 9/11 Commission finding proves without any doubt that the President misled the American people about the war in Iraq. Instead of accepting the finding, the President went into full frontal denial today.

Presented with conclusive and compelling evidence, the President simply announced that he knows there was a link, so there is a link. A bipartisan commission of distinguished U.S. leaders whose only mission is to find out

the truth on behalf of America is about to be neutered by the administration.

Facts? Forget them. The President knows the truth. He must have seen it in a vision. Evidence? Who needs evidence when you have a President who is all knowing? Undeniable conclusion? Deny it.

Then what do you do when you are this President and this administration? Next, and you can count on this, Republican storm troopers come into the House, will step to the microphone and denounce the commission. The Republican leaders in the House will denounce the members of the 9/11 Commission as partisan, even the Republicans on the commission.

In the big lie theory of communication you never let the facts get in the way of the propaganda.

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So less than 4 hours after the 9/11 Commission tells America that there was no link between Iraq and the attacks, the President says otherwise. The charade goes on.

Over a year ago the President misled the American people and the world about Iraq, and he continues to do the same thing today. The President retreated from the war on terror and the hunt for Osama bin Laden to settle an old score against a family enemy in Iraq, but America has lost 800 U.S. soldiers in Iraq. America has seen thousands of U.S. soldiers wounded in Iraq. We have spent \$200 billion.

The death, destruction and mayhem never had to happen. There are ways of dealing with Saddam, but the administration wanted blood from an old family nemesis.

The President has made the world more dangerous. The administration has made America look and act like a lawless thug. The War Secretary has made the world shudder with the awful truth seen in prisoner abuse pictures that no amount of rhetoric can deny. The big lie can make people afraid. The big lie cannot stop the truth.

America has seen and now America has heard. The President misled the American people about Iraq. The American people will respond in November. The 2nd of November is coming.

SPINNING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, like most of America, we grieve today the loss of Paul Johnson, apparently beheaded by an al Qaeda-linked Saudi militant group. He was found today in the Saudi Arabian capital. He was an American contractor living in Saudi Arabia since 1980, a Floridian who was beheaded by these terrorists: immoral, barbaric, and demonic.

I know most Muslims, Christians and Jews would join me in the feeling that

these acts are offensive in the eyes of God. This murder had no purpose except to show that these cowards had one purpose, and that is to take an innocent life. They hid behind hoods and executed a citizen of this country who loved the people of Saudi Arabia, who enjoyed working in that country to help the people of Saudi Arabia, who was an innocent, decent, kind husband and father.

This was not an execution but a barbaric and demonic act of torture. If these sadists believe this type of action will unnerve America and weaken our resolve in our war against terror, they are both stupid, as they are wrong.

I take great exception to the speech by the gentleman from Washington moments ago who tries to conclude from the 9/11 report that there is no connection between al Qaeda and Iraq. It all is of the same vein and nature. The death of Paul Johnson, the death of Nicholas Berg, the retaliation against Saudi officials, the attempt to bomb the Jordanian intelligence service, the murder of hundreds of Spanish citizens peacefully on their way in Spain are all interconnected and intertwined.

He says there is no connection. I urge people to read the Wall Street Journal today and its editorial page because there is a lot of spinning going on. Maybe there have not been enough dots to connect yet so the gentleman comes out here and alleges that the President lied, that there is absolutely no connection. If he spoke any longer, I would have assumed he would have called Saddam Hussein just a sad, old, tired man who really should have been left alone to live in peace.

He killed a million of his own citizens. He said there is no link. A citizen of my county died from anthrax. He worked at National Media, the owner of National Enquirer. It is interesting that Mohammed Atta was living in Palm Beach County, a few miles from the facility in which that citizen died in Palm Beach County.

It is interesting, in the 9/11 Report, "al Qaeda operatives trained in Iran, and al Qaeda helped Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists obtain explosives."

"Another revelation concerns al Qaeda and anthrax. The 9/11 panel says al Qaeda had an 'ambitious' biological weapons program and "was making advances in its ability to produce anthrax prior to September 11." That is in the report, anthrax, prior to September 11.

It is telling, too, that the henchmen for the Iraqi leader agent al-Ani happened to be in Prague for meetings. Oh, lo and behold, cell phone records indicate that phone calls were placed from Florida to Mohammed Atta's cell phone at the same time he was reportedly in Prague. A coincidence, I guess. A sheer coincidence that Mohammed Atta, the leader of the 9/11 hijacking of planes, who was living in Delray Beach, Florida, close to where a citizen was killed by anthrax, meeting with Iraqi

officials in Prague, is all coincidental, all coincidental, all sheer fantasy.

Read this editorial in the Wall Street Journal today.

Paul Johnson died at the hands of terrorists, not because we are in Iraq. They are going to kill Americans and other freedom-loving people because they resent our way of life. They resent who we are. For Members to come to this floor and say there is no link and no connection with the terrorists and Iraqis and anthrax and 9/11 have not read the entire report and are simply spinning a tale that they want America to believe.

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

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 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 California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER 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 Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCGOVERN 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 (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND 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 Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

AUTISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to address the House regarding the very important issue of autism and the epidemic of autism that we are seeing in this country today, but before I begin my prepared remarks on this subject, I want to extend my condolences to the family of Paul Johnson.

His son lives in Merritt Island, an area in my congressional district, and it is indeed a great tragedy for our Nation and very obviously a great tragedy for his family. As I understand it, he was a great person, a great American, a patriotic American, and it goes to show to all of us that the war on terror continues and that there is a great peril to American contractors, probably anywhere in the Middle East, but particularly in Saudi Arabia and, obviously, as we know, in Iraq.

I do want to salute those contractors that do take the risk and go over there. They perform vital functions. In many ways, they are as important as our military people over there and we need to honor them and respect them.

So my condolences go out to the Johnson family, and certainly I hope that they will be comforted by the good Lord in their time of grief.

I would like to take this time to address what I consider to be a very growing problem, the epidemic of autism and neurodevelopmental disorders that are plaguing our Nation.

In January of this year, the Department of Health and Human Services sent out an autism alarm to the Nation's pediatricians. In this alarm, they stated that one in every 167 children is being diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. I will repeat that. One in every 167 children being born in the United States today is being diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder.

Furthermore, one in seven children is being diagnosed with either a learning disability or a behavioral disability.

Mr. Speaker, something dreadful is happening to our youngest generation, and we must sound the alarm and figure out what is going on with our children.

I had the pleasure of addressing an autism conference in Chicago last month, and I would like to share today some of the thoughts I shared then with about 1,000 researchers, doctors, nurses, educators and, most importantly, parents who were there to seek answers to this growing problem.

I have said repeatedly that the autism community is the 900-pound gorilla that has not had its voice properly heard on Capitol Hill. This is largely due to the endless demands on the time, effort, emotions and financial resources of the parents of these children who are struggling to meet the unique needs of these kids with autism. There is little time, money, energy left to engage in public debates, let alone engage