

data transmission lines have yet to be repaired. This presents a problem, especially for sharing data and supplying information.

Iraq's banking system: the issue of Iraqi currency must be dealt with immediately. Many people in Iraq will not accept payment with the old regime's currency. The World Bank should provide its expertise in helping get Iraq's banking system back up and running.

The Story of Democracy: the State Department working with the National Endowment for Democracy and other groups with similar expertise should develop a program on democracy and how a democratic government works.

I was told that Iraqis watch a great deal of television. Perhaps whatever program is developed should be put on videotapes and tailored to specific age groups so that all Iraqis can understand the democratic process. This program must be made available to the Civil Affairs units in each of the 18 provinces. I understand money already has been appropriated and some contracts have been let. This program must be put into place as soon as possible.

A pro-democracy newspaper also should begin to be published on a daily basis in Iraq.

Ordnance Removal: finding and removing unexploded ordnance needs to be a priority. Sadly, many Iraqi children have been seriously hurt by exploding weapons while playing outdoors. When I visited the General Hospital in Nasiriyah, a young boy had just been brought into the emergency room after either a mine or unexploded ordnance blew up near him. He was severely burned and there was a piece of shrapnel in his right eye. Clearing this ordnance will be a long and laborious process.

Health Care: while great progress has been made to improve health care in southern Iraq since the war ended, there is still a long way to go. While the major hospitals in southern Iraq used to bear Saddam Hussein's name—and are all identically constructed—there was little or no medicine and the conditions inside are deplorable. One NGO that is providing invaluable assistance is the International Medical Corps (IMC). Their doctors, nurses, nutritionists and other health care professionals are making great strides in assessing the health care needs of Iraq. They are also helping provide care. I was told that IMC has helped distribute more than two tons of donated medicine to hospitals and clinics in southern Iraq. There is concern, however, that diseases like malaria and visceral leishmaniasis—also called Dum Dum Fever or Black Fever—could ravage the region this summer because no spraying was done this spring to kill the mosquito larvae or sand flea larvae. Bites from sand fleas are the cause of visceral leishmaniasis, which attacks internal organs. This disease has an 80 percent fatality rate for young children unless treated with a 21-day shot routine. Cholera is another concern. Area hospitals and American drug companies should work with medical NGOs in Iraq to ensure they have an adequate drug supply and the necessary equipment to provide medical services. Any assistance must be coordinated with NGOs on the ground so there is not any duplication of efforts or unnecessary equipment donated.

Women's Health: improving health services for women will be particularly important as the reconstruction of Iraq moves forward. More focus is needed on pre- and post-natal care. The surgical capabilities in the country are se-

riously lacking. Special instruments for delivering babies and performing cesarean sections are needed. So are the proper medications for delivery. More nurses also need to be trained.

Religious Freedom: as a new government is established in Iraq, care must be given to protect the rights of religious minorities. I urge the Bush Administration to develop a strategy and governance structure within the new Iraqi government to ensure that the hard won freedoms of the Iraqi people also will include the right and protection of religious liberties.

Quality of Life for Troops: the troops serving in the Gulf region are outstanding. The ones I spoke with were highly skilled, highly motivated and extremely professional. They all have made great sacrifices to serve their country. In turn, we should do everything possible to make sure their morale remains high. Hearing from home is a big part of that. Congress should provide DOD with the necessary resources to ensure these service men and women serving in the Gulf, and around the globe for that matter, are able to get messages from home, whether by phone, e-mail or regular mail.

Commendation for Kuwait: Congress should approve a resolution thanking the government and people of Kuwait for their assistance in helping to provide humanitarian relief to Iraq. The Kuwaiti government has provided millions of dollars in assistance, both in-kind and in material goods. The United States' Humanitarian Operations Center is run out of a former government facility in Kuwait City.

NGOs Valuable Role: the NGOs on the ground in the region also have done a tremendous job responding to the needs of the Iraqi people. From helping provide food to medical care to caring for orphans, their experience and expertise has proven invaluable. I was told some of the NGOs in the region are concerned that the humanitarian assistance is being coordinated by the U.S. military. Some of their misgivings may be justified. As the ORHA/CPA gets up and running, however, I suspect many of their concerns will be alleviated. Care must be given though to ensure that ORHA/CPA does not duplicate efforts that are already underway.

Conclusion: in closing, I want to thank all those who helped make my trip possible. For security reasons I cannot mention people by name, but I am forever grateful for their assistance.

I also want to thank all the NGOs who are providing humanitarian assistance in Iraq. The people who work and volunteer for these organizations are extremely dedicated. They work long hours and give up the many comforts of home to serve others, often in very dangerous places around the globe, like Iraq and Afghanistan. They are a special breed and deserve our thanks and praise.

Finally, I want to thank several members of my staff for their help in putting together this report. Dan Scandling, my chief of staff, accompanied me on the trip and served as photographer. Janet Shaffron, my legislative director, edited the report and Colin Samples did the layout and design.

IN HONOR OF DR. ALFRED O. HEATH

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a true renaissance man of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Dr. Alfred O. Heath. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Heath is being honored this weekend in St. Thomas with the Alexander A. Farrelly Public Service Award, given by Virgin Islanders for Responsible Government, an honor of which he is more than deserving.

A fellow physician, Dr. Heath is also renowned in the territory as a businessman, educator, health care administrator, musician and licensed pilot. Dr. Heath is most recognized for performing one of the territory's earliest heart surgeries, and for restoring the operable use of a patient's severed arm. In addition to the many "medical miracles" that he performed, Dr. Heath served as the Attending Senior Surgeon at the Roy Schneider Hospital and as a General Surgeon at the U.S. Army Hospital in Heidelberg, Germany.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Heath has also served as the Medical Director of Sea View Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility, as Commissioner of Health of the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Professor of Surgery at American University of the Caribbean in St. Maarten, West Indies.

His business pursuits include the founding of the Seaview facility, Heath Health Enterprises, the Medical Arts Complex of St. Thomas, Medical Arts Slender You Salon, and St. Thomas Health Care Management, Inc.

An all around gentleman, Dr. Heath's voice can be heard in local chorales and choirs, and entertaining a spellbound audience with his violin. He is also an adept pilot, and an avid boater.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Heath has been toasted by the Rotary International as the Man of the Year, the Paul Harris Fellow, and the Costas Coulianos Fellow. The Business and Professional Women, the Virgin Islands Toastmasters, the National Guard, the Virgin Islands Medical Society and the American Cancer Society have all at various times noted his talents and his willingness to share them with his community.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Alfred O. Heath was born and raised in St. Thomas to Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Heath. Upon graduation from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1947, he attended the University of Puerto Rico's School of Pharmacy for two years from 1947 to 1949. He later graduated from Temple University's School of Pharmacy with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1953. He received a Medical Degree from Jefferson Medical College followed by a surgical residency, which focused on general, thoracic and cardiovascular surgery between 1953 and 1960. He also attended the University of Heidelberg from 1962 to 1963.

Married to Geraldine Cheatham, they are the parents of one son, Alfred, Jr., and two daughters, Anita and Judy.

Dr. Heath's military career culminated with 50 years of service to the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army National Guard at the rank of Brigadier General.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of serving under this outstanding individual in

good times and bad. I will never forget his strength, endurance and leadership during the evacuation of the St. Croix Hospital after Hurricane Hugo. That experience and the emergency delivery that he performed during the crisis demonstrated the measure of this great man.

Mr. Speaker, the people of my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands are grateful to Dr. Heath for his many years of dedicated service to our islands. His selfless example of excellence, foresight and commitment is one that we hope will be emulated by our young people.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring a man so deserving as Dr. Heath.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL
MASHAW

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to the exemplary efforts of Bill Mashaw of Durango, Colorado. Bill has been awarded the Community Builder Award by the La Plata County Community Summit Coordinating Committee for going far beyond the call of duty. Today I wish to recognize the accomplishments and character of this great citizen before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Bill has proven his commitment to the community by organizing the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program and through his involvement in the Community Development Corporation, which works on affordable housing projects. In addition, Bill has served with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army and currently serves on the board of directors for the Fort Lewis College Foundation. Bill also reaches out to children in the Durango area by helping with the D.A.R.E. program, and a number of other programs geared towards youth.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Bill Mashaw has touched the lives of many in his community. It is with great pride that I stand to honor a man who has lived a life of love, service and passion. I add my voice to that of the Durango Area Chamber Resort Association, who has named Bill Mashaw both Citizen and Volunteer of The Year. Thank you, Bill, for your dedication.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION DECEPTIONS ABOUT IRAQ THREATEN CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, my service in this House has often shown me the profound tension between government secrecy and democratic decision-making. Rarely however, has that tension been as starkly posed as in the current revelations of divergence between President Bush's assertions based on "secret information" about the alleged threat to America posed by Iran and the actual assessment of that threat by America's intelligence professionals.

I have seen the American people apparently deceived into supporting invasion of sovereign nation, in violation of UN charter and international law, on the basis of what now appear to be false assurances. The power of the Congress to declare war was usurped. The consent of the governed was obtained by manipulation rather than candid persuasion.

Instead of conducting a sustained all-out war against the genuine terrorists behind 9/11, President Bush chose to terrorize the American people. The President, Vice President CHENEY and Secretary Rumsfeld painted lurid nightmares of al Qaeda's attacking U.S. cities with insidious anthrax or clouds of deadly nerve gas. All of this was portrayed as coming courtesy of Saddam Hussein, unless we destroyed the Iraq regime. They also wielded the ultimate threat that Iraq would imminently endanger America and our closest allies with nuclear weapons. Members of Congress who voiced deep distrust of those claims were privately briefed with even more vivid descriptions of the deadly threats that Saddam posed to American security.

In public speech after speech, the President and his supporting players assured America's anxious citizens that attacking Iraq was absolutely necessary to prevent the imminent threat of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction from harming them and their loved ones.

In addition, President Bush was determined to convince the public that Saddam was personally behind, or at least intimately involved in 9/11. He and Vice President CHENEY repeated that mantra incessantly. No wonder that about half of the country still believes that Saddam was involved, although our intelligence community has emphasized that there is no credible evidence that is true.

The manipulation was massive and malicious. The motive was simple. The Administration wanted to attack Iraq for a variety of ideological and geopolitical reasons. But the President knew that the American people would not willingly risk shedding the blood of thousands of Americans and Iraqis without the immediate threat of deadly attack on the United States. As Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz recently admitted to an interviewer in an unguarded moment, when the threat of weapons of mass destruction was chosen as the banner to lead a march to war, it was chosen for "bureaucratic reasons," not because the danger was imminent or paramount.

The President and his Cabinet were well aware that these claims either rested on flimsy projections or came from sources that most of our Intelligence Community disdained. The President and his Cabinet knew that in some cases those discredited sources' assertions were flatly contradicted by the professional assessments of the intelligence Community experts at CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the State Department, and were only supported by a rogue special office established under Secretary Rumsfeld precisely to "find" or reinterpret intelligence in order to support the Administration's determination to invade Iraq.

When war came, our own military field commanders were surprised by the fierce, often deadly, resistance that our troops faced from Saddam's "militia." We, and our British allies, were surprised when the Iraqi people in Basra and elsewhere did not rise up to welcome our troops with open arms. Most of all, our military commanders, the Congress and the American

people all were surprised when no weapons of mass destruction (WMD) were found. Now, as each day passes, and no WMD has been found, that surprise has turned to suspicion, to concern and finally to outrage at the deception practiced by the Bush Administration.

In response, President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, Secretary Rumsfeld, and their spokespersons have offered one excuse after another. As reporters and whistle-blowers have exposed the flaws in each excuse, the White House has scrambled to create another, with the confusing speed of a kaleidoscope's changing patterns. Law students are taught to plead in the alternative: "I never borrowed your pot." "Besides, it wasn't cracked when I returned it." "Anyway, it was not cracked when I borrowed it in the first place." The Bush Administration has learned that lesson well:

The Bush White House assures us that weapons of mass destruction will inevitably be found.

At the same time, the Bush White House argues that they never really said Iraq had such weapons in 2002, only that they had programs to develop those weapons.

Finally, the Bush White House argues that it doesn't matter whether Iraq did or did not have such weapons posing a threat to the United States, because Saddam was a repressive ruler and its good that the world is rid of him.

They cannot succeed with this shell game because they cannot outrun the truth. There are too many previous contradictory statements, too many reports leaked by outraged veteran intelligence analysts, and too great a record of established facts. The Administration's arrogantly crafted script is unraveling. President Bush and his courtiers now have learned the wisdom of the Scottish poet Robert Burns, who warned:

"Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive."

Now, the Administration's final refuge is that the public thinks the war was justified even if no weapons are found. Obviously, those poll results reflect the American people's relief that our military's losses, and the loss of Iraqi civilians, regrettable as they are, have not been even greater. They reflect understandable revulsion at the horrors of Saddam's regime. Nevertheless, continued ethnic conflict and violence, ambushes of American soldiers, political disarray, malnutrition and disease mount daily in the aftermath of this "easy war." Also, the Bush White House is forced to acknowledge the re-emergence of al Qaeda's terrorist threat. So the American people have begun to focus on how badly it appears that they, and their congressional representatives, may have been misled by a president anxious to stampede America into war.

In any event, regardless of the final tally on the war in Iraq, there is a growing awareness that this disturbing presidential conduct raises issues that transcend any particular hostilities in which America might engage. It raises the most profound constitutional questions. How can the separation of powers and checks and balances designed to protect our Republic continue to do, if the Executive can work its will through falsehood, deception and concealment?

Equally pressing is a determination of the appropriate remedy, should the Administration's assurances to Congress and to the electorate prove to have been as knowingly false