

\$10 million to finance 100 prison-building experts; \$100 million for 2,000 garbage trucks; \$20 million for Afghanistan consultants; \$850 million for health facility construction and medical equipment replacement; and \$900 million to import petroleum products, such as kerosene and diesel, to a country with the world's second largest oil reserves.

Instead of again coming back and dipping into the pockets of working Americans and risking veterans benefits for our troops when they return home, I support proposals to suspend the tax cut for the top 1 percent of income earners to pay for the Bush administration's \$87 billion supplemental appropriation bill for Iraq. Again, I urge Congress to consider my bill, H.R. 3051, to include support for our troops in the supplemental aid package to Iraq. Again, my bill provides a \$1,500 bonus to military personnel who serve under the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves in a combat zone in Iraq or Afghanistan. In the coming year, an estimated 150,000 young men and women will not see their families. They will be deployed overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. A record number of Reservists and Guardsmen and women will put their private sector opportunities and jobs on hold, and thousands of children from every part of America will pray for their parents' safe return.

These extraordinary times deserve an exemplary measure. I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 3051, to provide for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and to make it a part of the supplemental appropriations bill. Give our troops the \$1,500 bonus they deserve.

REPORT OF WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

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

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to rise tonight and join the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) as we have established the Washington Waste Watchers. Ronald Reagan once defined the American taxpayer as somebody who works for the Federal Government but does not have to take the civil service exam. Unfortunately, he was far too correct. According to Americans for Tax Reform, the average American family has to spend 193 days working to pay their total cost of government: Federal, State and local taxes and the regulatory burden. 130 of those 193 days are the cost of funding the Federal Government. Imagine working 193 days for the average American. That is more than half the year by far. It is time that our families were able to spend most of their time working for their families and themselves and not

for the Federal Government, the Federal bureaucracy.

We are facing a time of a dramatically expanding new deficit. We understand the need on homeland security. We understand the aftermath of September 11. We understand the need to support our troops over in Iraq. But the bottom line is that, here at home, we have a lot of spending that is simply out of control. The best place to attack this spending, in our view, in the Washington Waste Watchers Caucus, is to go after wasteful spending, is to look at programs that simply are not being well run, are not efficient or are meaningless altogether. There are many, many examples of this. Over time, the Washington Waste Watchers will be reminding not just our constituents but we will be reminding people who are the stewards of the American taxpayers in all of the different Federal agencies that they do not want to be the next group or the next individual embarrassed because of what they have done on their watch with the taxpayer dollars.

There are lots of examples. I want to go through a few tonight. In the Pell grant program, for example, if ideally run, it helps empower many thousands of American men and women get through college. An administrator at the Beacon Career Institute in my home State of Florida, however, defrauded the Department of Education of nearly \$1 million. The administrator submitted false documents to justify the disbursement of \$720,000 in improper Pell grants. This money could have been used to pay for some 600 Pell grants when combined with the other \$2.4 million in fraud. The Department of Education estimates that in the year 2001, some \$336 million in Pell grants were improperly disbursed, given to the wrong people. That is wrong. Unfortunately, some of our friends in the Democratic Party still want to raise your taxes.

If you look at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, for example, there is a lot of fraud that is denying legitimate Indian needs out there in America. In New Mexico, for example, a Bureau of Indian Affairs bookkeeper embezzled \$66,000 of Federal money intended for the Wingate High School. Also in Arizona, the neighboring State, two Bureau of Indian Affairs bureaucrats skimmed over \$60,000 intended for Indian education programs. Again, a lot of our Democratic colleagues still want to raise your taxes.

In the Virgin Islands, if you look at the Office of Insular Affairs, in the Virgin Islands the Department of Health failed to effectively administer grants that total over \$30.5 million. Errors included failure to engage in competitive bidding, improper land acquisition, undocumented cost claims and even the failure to complete a health clinic. Again, a lot of our Democratic friends still want to raise your taxes.

Finally, the Federal Emergency Management Administration. A lot of my

colleagues understand in the aftermath of tornadoes, wind storms, and the recent hurricane that came up through the east coast, we want an emergency management agency to help people in severe need as they are rebuilding their communities. We want to make sure that police and fire and fundamental services are taken care of. But in response to the most recent wind storm, do you know what the Federal Emergency Management Administration is funding in this part of the world right outside of the Capitol here? Free stress reduction and personal growth classes as a response to the hurricane. They ask questions like, does stress make you feel unbalanced? Do you sometimes feel sad, depressed or empty? Do worrisome thoughts make you feel overwhelmed? By the way, if so, FEMA, the emergency management administration, thinks it has got an answer for you. What does it have? Multicultural initiatives, presenting a series that will allow discussion of who we are, where we are from, why we are here and how we are doing, a Federal program supposedly responding to emergencies in our States.

Multicultural town meetings. We have future workshops to address the issues of diversity, peace and violence versus nonviolence. These may be worthwhile things, but do you think that your tax dollar in the emergency management administration should be spent on them? Finally, anger management programs are being funded with your tax dollars in the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Lastly, I will tell you that they are using your tax dollars, supposedly used to respond to emergencies, to do things like a yearlong celebration of trees, of gardens and other healing places. Ladies and gentlemen, some of them on the Democratic side still want to raise your taxes.

We are going to go after the waste in government.

THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, earlier this evening, one of our Republican colleagues, a very fine and thoughtful gentleman, came to the well here to lament the fact that the dialogue here, the discussion in the House, has become somewhat partisan lately. I have to agree with him that that is the case. He also said that earlier, after September 11, 2001, immediately thereafter, there was a sense of unity and purpose here, we were united. There is no question that that also is true. There are legitimate reasons for both circumstances.

After the attack of September 11, of course we were united. We were united as a country and the Members in this House were united purposefully to deal with the problems associated with that attack.

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The President and the Members of Congress here identified the source of that problem. It was al Qaeda network being harbored by the Taliban in Afghanistan, and we all united together to make sure that that problem was eliminated. Some of us even went to Afghanistan to be with our military personnel to show them our support for the efforts there. That military action is over. Unfortunately, due to the lack of attention of the administration, however, it is rapidly deteriorating.

But I want to talk more about the situation that exists in Iraq because that has become the major focus of our attention, and indeed it has taken on a partisan perspective, and there are very good reasons for that because we have major differences of opinion. First of all, with regard to the rationale for attacking Iraq and, secondly, with regard to how the circumstances there are being carried out by this administration and especially by the Defense Department under this administration.

Everyone will recall that the President, when he spoke here in this House to a joint session of Congress and the American people, said over and over and over again directly and indirectly that there were ties and relationships between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, between Iraq and the al Qaeda network, and that was the reason why we had to go to war. Just recently the President has had to admit that that was not the case. There was no connection between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda or Osama bin Laden.

Then the administration was telling us that they had to go over weapons of mass destruction. They knew there were chemical and biological weapons there in Iraq, and we had to go in there because those weapons were dangerous and they had to be taken care of. We have been there now for 5 months. We have found no chemical or biological weapons, no trace of any program dealing with nuclear weapons in spite of the fact that the President, from the podium here in this House, said that he had good solid information that the Iraqis were importing enriched uranium from Niger to facilitate the development of their nuclear program. All of that has turned out to be false. And so, yes, we raised the question why did we go to Iraq? For what purpose are we there? Why did we disrupt that country? Why have we created a situation of chaos there that has resulted in the death, up to this moment, of more than 300 American soldiers and the injury, the wounding, many of them very serious, of hundreds more, not to mention the deaths of tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and others from other countries? Yes, we question that.

Now, we find out other things. For example, we have learned recently that there are now, according to General Abizaid, who is the highest-ranking American military officer in the Persian Gulf, that there are 650,000 tons of

conventional weapons in Iraq, and they are essentially unguarded. The administration is running around the country there looking for so-called weapons of mass destruction. They have not paid a bit of attention to 650,000 tons of conventional weapons, grenades, surface-to-air missiles, 500-pound bombs, things of that nature that are scattered in places all over that country.

The destruction of the UN headquarters in Iraq recently, which resulted in the death of the highest-ranking United Nations official in Iraq, is something that we are all deeply concerned about and lament. What caused that? It turns out that under an FBI investigation, they found remnants of a Russian-made 500-pound bomb that, in all likelihood, came from one of these arsenals that are scattered around Iraq unguarded from which the terrorists can get all of the explosives and all of the conventional weapons they want, because we are not paying sufficient attention to them because we are looking for something that the administration has known from the beginning, based upon intelligence from the Central Intelligence Agency, the FBI, and elsewhere, that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

They have taken us down a blind alley. We see through it. We see the falsehood. We see the mendacity. And, of course, we have an obligation, a responsibility to speak out against it. That is why the tone has turned in this House to a more partisan nature, because the administration and the leadership in this House pulled the wool over the eyes of the American people and many of the Members of this House who voted for that war resolution back last October. And now it is evident that they did so under false pretenses. It was a fraud, and we need to take action to correct it.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 3, PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2003

Mrs. MYRICK, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-290) on the resolution (H. Res. 383) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the Senate bill (S. 3) to prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr. BORDALLO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I have on my desk a small card which has the words of my predecessor Congressman Ben Blaz. It says "I am a Member of Congress, but not one of its

Members." I read those words today, Madam Speaker, because I had them reinforced to me when I tried to sign the discharge petition here in Congress to give the veterans concurrent receipt that they deserve. We have veterans on Guam, 15,000 of them, in fact, but I was told as a Delegate, I cannot put my name on that discharge petition. More soldiers from Guam have died, per capita, in foreign wars than any other State in the Nation. But Madam Speaker, I cannot put my name on that discharge petition. Pacific Islander veterans suffer disproportionately from posttraumatic stress disorder, but I cannot put my name on that discharge petition. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 303, but I cannot put my name on that discharge petition.

What can I do? I have decided to come to the floor today to appeal to my colleagues. I urge them to sign the discharge petition, Republican or Democrat; it does not matter. Do it for the veterans in their district. Do it for the veterans of Guam. Do it for their colleague who has been denied that right. I appeal to my colleagues on behalf of the disabled veterans of America. I see them at town hall meetings in my district all the time, and it breaks my heart. Veterans like Mr. Victor Pangelinan Tabios, who is 100 percent disabled.

Madam Speaker, the people of Guam are shy people. It takes a lot of courage for them to stand up in public and to speak out their mind. So when Victor spoke to me about concurrent receipt, I listened. He served our country with duty and honor and pride, and now it is time for us to step up and do the same. If just one of my colleagues will sign that discharge petition today, they will have the deepest thanks from the people of Guam and a very grateful Delegate who cannot sign the petition.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield to the gentleman from California.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, would it be in order to ask unanimous consent to request to allow the gentlewoman to sign the discharge petition?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. No, the Chair will not entertain that request.

Mr. FILNER. Why is that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The respective rights and privileges of the Members and Delegates are established by rules and by law; so that unanimous consent request will not be entertained.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for bringing this up because this is an insult to her constituents, it is an insult to her. I will say if the Democrats get control of the House, the right to vote and sign discharge petitions, we hope, will get back to the delegates.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his interest and concern.