

just a person that did so much harm to so many people, I ask myself the question, Was that the reason that we went into war from the beginning? After all, we still have not yet found, by the way, the weapons of mass destruction that were supposed to have caused this preemptive war.

By the way, that is another issue that we brought up, the whole issue of preemption. The Congressional Black Caucus, before this war came about, said that one of our major concerns was that we were committing a preemptive strike; that is, that we were going into a war of more or less prevention and certainly one, if one goes away from what we normally would do, and this preemptive strike is a major thing because that is something that the United States does not do; but the fact is that going into a preemptive strike caused us a lot of concern because we began to ask the question, Well, what are we trying to prevent?

That is where the question of imminent danger came in. Again, that question was never answered. And to be frank, when we look back at it, I do not think this country was in imminent danger. In essence, we have traded over 600 coalition lives and that of countless civilians for that one brutal dictator. One year later, we must ask, was it worth it? Was it worth it to the young man in my district, one of the first casualties of the war?

I shall never forget, Mr. Speaker, as his father heard about his death and cried out, Why is it that my son has died? He wanted to know, that is, Sergeant Walters-Bey's father wanted to know why his son had died. I shall never forget going to the funeral and standing there as he begged me for an answer to the question with tears rolling down his face, Why has my son died? His father was very clear. He had read the papers, he had watched the newscasts. He said to me, Mr. Speaker, "I am all for doing whatever is necessary to support this country. My son was for whatever was necessary to support this country. But I question what this war was all about."

And so, Mr. Speaker, I have asked time and time again if we had enough intelligence to determine that Saddam Hussein was hiding chemical and biological weapons then, why has the Intelligence Community not been able to lead us to those weapons? It is no wonder that the world leaders are now challenging our credibility.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the truth hurts, but the President need not blame others for the predicament that he has caused. It is no secret that our standing around the world has plummeted as a result of President Bush's foreign policy. Spain, a country that stood with President Bush just 1 year ago and supported this preemptive war, is now calling the United States occupation a fiasco.

Just today, Poland, a country which has about 2,400 troops in Iraq and was a strong supporter of the invasion, is

saying that it was misled about the threat from Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

□ 1745

Unfortunately, the tide seems to be beginning to turn against the United States. Mr. Speaker, I contend that in a multicultural society bolstered by a global economy, there is absolutely no room for a unilateralist foreign policy.

Following President Bush's pronouncement of war last year, the Vatican offered this response: "Whoever decides that peaceful means under international law" that was put at our disposition "have been exhausted assumes a serious responsibility before God, his own conscience, and his country."

I have often said, Mr. Speaker, a hundred years ago none of us were here and a hundred years from now, none of us will be here. The question is what do we do to make our time on this Earth the best that it can be? And perhaps the greater question is, how do we make the lives of others the best that they can be?

Let us seize upon this moment to begin working with international leaders to correct our current course in order that history would reflect kindly upon us as a Nation. One year later, Mr. Speaker, we must reclaim the moral high ground for the sake of our children and those generations yet unborn. I have often said that our children are the living messages we send to a future we will never see. Our children are the living messages we send to a future we will never see. We cannot allow our children, through our actions today, to send a message of war, arrogance, and bloodshed to that future.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "The chain reaction of evil, hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars, must be broken; or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation."

On this 1-year anniversary, let us not only contemplate how to better secure our homeland, but let us also contemplate how to secure the peace. One of the things that is so fascinating in an article that I recently read where a young man who was a medic in this war and is now home and he wished to remain anonymous, he was stationed at the Baghdad airport as a medic, and he talked about how he had served in previous wars, and he talked about how it was interesting how different it was because the young people that come back, the soldiers that come back today, a lot of times the public never has an opportunity to see our fallen. And he went on to say that "from what I gather, it used to be that the President would go out to the area to meet the deceased soldiers coming in. They would drape caskets and they would actually watch and give a moment of silence as the coffins came in." He went on to say, and this is a soldier, "The Bush administration felt that this was too much for Americans to handle. So they secured that part of the ceremony" and he said that "no one knows when that fallen soldier comes home.

He went on to say, "It is an injustice to the military because you gave your life to the country and the country should give something back to you. Even just a moment of silence. Every day that someone dies, the flag should be lowered to half staff, not just because a politician dies." He went on to say, "Those guys are good people. They work hard. They do anything and everything that is asked of them, and they gave the ultimate sacrifice. It should not be that you have to go to a Web site to find out who died."

So on this 1-year anniversary, although we do not see their faces, in towns and communities all over our country, people are experiencing the pain of war. Many of them are going to funerals, and our prayers go out with them. Many of them finding themselves in hospitals, and our prayers go out to them. Our prayers go out to all the families who have suffered losses. Our prayers also go out to all of our military who have gone forth to do what they had been called upon to do by our Commander in Chief. We pause on this 1-year anniversary to simply say to them, we thank them. We thank them for putting their lives in harm's way. We thank them for standing up. We thank them for being counted.

And as Swindoll, the great theologian, has often said, It is the things that you do when you are unknown, unseen, unappreciated, and unapplauded that truly matter.

So we in the Congressional Black Caucus refuse, as we did before the war, to be silent. We must raise our voices as we said then, as we begged the President not to go to war, and now that so many of our soldiers have gone on, our civilians have gone on, innocent Iraqi people have gone on, so many have been injured, we again raise our voices. Only this time we raise our voices to recognize those whose names will appear in a local paper or may appear in one or two paragraphs of some article talking about casualties in Iraq. We raise them and say to all of them, to those who have gone on, to those who have been injured, to those who are still in Iraq, to those who have come home for the 2-week leave and are about to go back, to those who believe so strongly in our country, they are no longer unseen, unnoticed, unappreciated, and unapplauded. We pause to say to them "thank you."

And so, hopefully, Mr. Speaker, as America goes to bed tonight, perhaps all of us need fall on our knees and ask God or at least whisper a prayer or have a moment of silence to recognize all of those who I have just mentioned who have given so much to make sure this country stays strong.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Mrs. BLACKBURN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending official ceremonies in her district commemorating America's 1-year anniversary of Iraq involvement at Fort Campbell with President Bush and Major General Petraeus.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BAIRD, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.
 (The following Members (at the request of Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, March 25.
 Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCGOVERN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.
 The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 22, 2004, at noon.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2003 and the first quarter of 2004, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, HON. JOHN V. SULLIVAN, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 13 AND JAN 17, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John V. Sullivan	1/13	1/17	U.K.		1,748.00		5,872.53				7,620.53
Committee total											7,620.53

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOHN V. SULLIVAN, Mar. 4, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. KEVIN FROMER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 4 AND JAN. 9, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kevin Fromer	1/4	1/6	Jordan		467.00						467.00
	1/6	1/9	Israel		724.00						724.00
Committee total					1,191.00						1,191.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. ROBERT W. VAN WICKLIN, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB.15 AND FEB. 18, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Robert W. Van Wicklin	2/15	2/18	France	E1073	1,374.00		5,961.09			E1073	7,335.09
Committee total					1,374.00		5,961.09				7,335.09

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. RYAN TATE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 15 AND FEB. 22, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Ryan Tate	2/15	2/22	China		1,123,000		5,631.00				6,754.00
Committee total					1,123.00		5,631.00				6,754.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House, Mar. 2, 2004.