

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. ZOE LOFGREN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from David R. Thomas, Chief of Staff of the Honorable ZOE LOFGREN, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 23, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DAVID R. THOMAS,
Chief of Staff.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

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

There was no objection.

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to report on the progress of women in Iraq. I am the vice-chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus, and it gives me great pleasure to tell about the progress that we have made.

Iraqi women greeted the capture of Saddam Hussein on December 13 with joyful relief. As one woman reported from an Iraqi women's conference taking place in Jordan, Almost all broke into tears and sobs that the man who had managed to reach into every individual's personal life and rip it apart by killing their husbands, sons, and fa-

thers, and raping and maiming their daughters, their mothers, and very often themselves, was brought to justice.

The United States is working with women in Iraq on programs that will broaden their political and economic opportunities and increase women's and young girls' access to education and health care.

In early 2003, the United States Government committed approximately \$2.5 billion in humanitarian and reconstruction aid to Iraq, and women were and still are full partners in this process. However, women's involvement in politics in Iraq actually is nothing new. Women have a long history of being involved in their country's development.

Prior to the Baathist regime, Iraqi women were the vanguard of women in Islam. I would note that the first woman's organization in Iraq was actually formed in 1924. The signing of an Iraqi interim Constitution on March 8 marks the beginning of a new role for women in the country. The Coalition Provisional Authority, or CPA, and the Iraqi Governing Council agreed to a process to restore Iraqis' sovereignty beginning with a fundamental law leading to a permanent Constitution. They agreed that a Bill of Rights would ensure equal rights for all Iraqis, regardless of gender, sect, or ethnicity.

Let us talk about the women's role in the new government. Three Iraqi women who are members of the new Governing Council are fully engaged in promoting the involvement of women in Iraq's future. An esteemed former female Iraqi judge in the Ministry of Justice is undertaking a review of all laws, legal practices, and the legal profession in Iraq for ways to increase equality and participation of women. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has adopted a policy of equal access to services and benefits for all of those who are eligible. And this policy will ultimately expand services as well for a larger quantity of Iraqi women.

Quotas restricting the entry of women into certain university courses have been raised or lifted altogether. Iraqi women's organizations are being created to expand opportunity for women to improve their lives and those of their families.

Let me talk more specifically about what kinds of activities are taking place and what kind of progress is actually being made.

After the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, Iraqi women were among the first demonstrators and have steadfastly sought equal rights. On a very brief trip that I took to Iraq, I spoke to many women and they are indeed very, very happy with American action.

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

(Mr. CONYERS 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 Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART).

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

There was no objection.

APPEASEMENT DOES NOT WORK AGAINST TERRORISTS

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the images of 9-11 are very vivid in my mind. That unsolicited, unprovoked attack on the American population is one of the most heinous things that this generation will see.

Mr. Speaker, we are given two choices when we are struck like that. We can choose appeasement. That was the policy of the preceding 10 years.

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Appeasement where we do not respond or we can respond to try to stop the threat. Under President Bush we have responded. President Clinton chose appeasement. If you watch the graduation of the attacks under the appeasement policy of President Clinton, you will see that the attacks began to escalate. The severity of the attacks began to take a greater toll.

The terrorists have one thing in mind when they attack innocent civilians and countries that have not provoked them. They desire to create instability, understanding that if they create economic instability, they will create political instability.

That was the mode of operation for the terrorists as they graduated through the 1990s. We recall that the World Trade Center was struck previous to 9/11. It was struck 10 years previous. On 9/11 we lost over 2,000 lives and it cost our economy \$2 trillion, and it is still costing today as businesses face increased insurance premiums to cover the losses of that 1 day.

When I hear critics talk about the war and the cost on the war, and it is an expensive war, make no doubt about it, the costs are up around \$200 billion now. \$200 billion though is not yet 10 percent of the cost of that 1-day strike.