

HEARINGS ON ABUSE

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the House should hold hearings on the abuses in the Iraqi prisons. The most powerful military machine that the world has ever seen quickly won the hot war in Iraq. It is the occupation of Iraq that is unwinnable. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) is on target with his analysis. The incompetent, improvised occupation of Iraq, guided by the Department of Defense, is unwinnable. Our troops in Iraq have been betrayed by the blundering of this administration and their top command.

An unqualified Secretary Rumsfeld improvising this occupation has thrown untrained soldiers into the role of prison guards. We owe it to our soldiers in the ranks to have a full investigation, to openly let the American people see exactly what happened. Yes, this is an un-American approach, un-American activity, and it probably involves only a few, but that few operate under top command.

Mr. Speaker, let us have a full investigation. The top command must accept responsibility. Hearings will reveal this truth. Let us have hearings as soon as possible.

STANDING BY OUR TROOPS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that with troops in the field, the Democrats are now going out sending a signal this war is unwinnable. With young men in the hospital, wounded, amputees, they are saying this war is unwinnable. With families and Americans mourning the dead, the Democrats are saying this war is unwinnable. We often hear from Democrats, Well, I support the troops, but I am against the war.

Mr. Speaker, I have never understood that. I have the honor of representing the Third Infantry Division and five military installations in my district, and that just does not sell to the soldiers in the field that, well, I support you individually, but what you are doing is wrong and I am against it.

This is not the time for our country to be sending mixed signals abroad that we are a divided country and that some of us want to cut and run. The best thing we can do to honor those who are wounded, to honor those who have lost their lives and their family and to stand beside the nearly 200,000 troops we have in Iraq and Afghanistan is say, You are doing the right thing. This cause is noble and it is winnable. We stand united behind you. Even though it is an election year, America comes first.

WHO HAS LET OUR TROOPS DOWN?

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman says we do not support our troops. The gentleman says we want to cut and run. The gentleman says we have let our troops down.

I will tell Members who have let our troops down: the administration that misled us into this war and did not tell us the truth, an administration that is incompetent, that does not provide the body armor for our troops, nor the armored cars. We have been told 25 percent of the casualties would have been prevented if this administration had been competent.

I will tell Members who has let our troops down: those who did not instruct prison guards in the Geneva Convention and who led young people, brave young men and women, to the abuse of prisoners and led to our embarrassment worldwide. That is who is letting our troops down: an administration that has no plan for the peace. We have no idea what we are doing there or how to get out. That is who is letting our troops down. That is who is not supporting our troops. I yield the balance of responsibility to this administration.

U.S. OIL PRODUCTION

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, NPR News this morning had a report about why gas prices are now over \$2 a gallon in some States and headed higher everywhere. The reporter explained that while demand has gone up, as everyone has known it would for many years, capacity has gone way down.

He said due to environmental restrictions, no new refineries have been built in this country for more than 20 years, and the number of refineries in California has decreased from 37 to 13. Also, radical environmentalists have successfully fought and stopped oil production in the frozen tundra of Alaska and most other places where it can be safely and environmentally and economically done in the U.S. Environmental extremists almost always come from wealthy, or at least very upper-income, families; but they are really hurting the poor and the lower income and working people of this country, and even our national security, by shutting down so much oil production and refining here and making us overly dependent on foreign oil that is being sold at rip-off prices.

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REGARDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask my good friend from Georgia how many of the military families has he engaged. How many has he asked why there is a blackout on allowing America to mourn with them as their loved ones' flagged-draped coffins come home to America. How many administration officials have deigned to go to the funeral and to give to the family some comfort?

I know military families. They want this war to end with dignity, yes; but they want some people to be responsible for the travesty of what is going on. And so I ask in light of the fact that we want to blame the troops because of what happened in the prison, I do not want to blame them. They are young. They are 19, 20, 21. I demand for there to be some heads to roll. And Secretary Rumsfeld is the one that needs to roll along with his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz.

I ask the Speaker of the House to demand an open session here on the floor of the House for Secretary Rumsfeld to come and tell us why he was hiding reports for 2 months, why no one knew about the reports, and why these kinds of heinous and ridiculous acts are going on. We want peace over war, but this administration went to war with untruth. Now it is time for people like Secretary Rumsfeld to wash his hands of the tragedy of this and resign. This is the time that we should start anew.

MISTREATMENT OF IRAQI PRISONERS

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, the one bipartisan thing that we can all agree on today that we will address in a resolution today is that the conduct which we have all witnessed in pictures spread around the world by a few misguided and perhaps sadistic and criminally accountable young men and women in charge of prisoners of war was wrong. There is no debate on that. There is no debate outside the American military. There is no debate inside the Congress that this was wrong.

But I do believe it is important, Mr. Speaker, for the American people to understand that every soldier is instructed that this is unacceptable. Every officer is trained that this is unacceptable. From my experience both as an enlisted man and as an officer, the military will see that these individuals who were instructed that this was not acceptable and then broke the regulations will be punished. This Congress will oversee that. That is a word that the people of the Arab world need to understand, that the people of Iraq need to understand. Things have changed. This Congress will not tolerate this behavior.