

these contractors have been implicated in the abuses of Iraqi prisoners. The legal status of these contractors in war zones is a murky area. How do we hold these contractors accountable?

The abuse of prisoners in Iraq has severely damaged our standing in the world and undercut our efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East. The real tragedy is that it was avoidable. Our troops and the American people have been let down by a failure of leadership. Real leadership is now required to attempt to limit the damage that has been done.

#### ON THE NOMINATION OF JON DUDAS TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to inform my colleagues that Jon Dudas, former counsel to the Speaker, and former key member of my staff when I was Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee has been nominated by the President to the crucial post of Under Secretary of Commerce.

I include my testimony in support of his nomination before the Senate Judiciary Committee for the information of my colleagues.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE HENRY J. HYDE

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

It is a pleasure to be here today to support the President's excellent choice for the crucial position of Under Secretary of Commerce, Jon Dudas.

I have known Jon for almost a decade. After he graduated from law school at the University of Chicago, he came to Capitol Hill and worked in my congressional office as a legislative counsel. When I first became Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Jon moved over as counsel to the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property which has jurisdiction over the complex issues of patent law. Shortly thereafter, I named him Staff Director and Deputy General Counsel of the full Judiciary Committee. During those extremely busy and trying years for the Congress and the Committee, I came to know Jon very well, and I became personally acquainted with his strong leadership, tremendous loyalty, unwavering integrity and the ability to accomplish his assigned mission under tremendous pressure.

When I first got to Congress, I learned an important lesson. If you want something done, you talk to the Member, and then you go to the "staffer who makes the Member look good." During his service on Capitol Hill, Jon was one of the people who made me look good.

In his position on the Judiciary Committee staff, Jon helped me manage the most productive committee in the Congress—more than one out of five bills considered by the House during the 105th and 106th Congresses went through the Judiciary Committee. Our Conference relied upon him to help achieve some of their most important goals during that period.

With mixed feelings, I encouraged Jon to leave the Committee staff when the Speaker asked him to serve as his chief floor manager and legal policy advisor to the House Leadership. Jon played a critical role in advancing legislation to support the war on terror.

Jon left the Hill when our former colleague, Jim Rogan, was appointed to be

Under Secretary of Commerce and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. As the Assistant Secretary immediately under Jim Rogan, Jon played an integral part in implementing the President's Management agenda and in developing the 21st Century Strategic Plan—a comprehensive map to move the Patent and Trademark Office from its crisis situation to one of improved quality, quicker issuance of patents and increased efficiency. His ability to relate and work well with others and his good relationships with Members of Congress will be critical in achieving the difficult task of passing the Administration's fee bill that will implement the strategic plan. Just as important, because he has been serving as Under Secretary Rogan's right hand for the last two years and currently as Acting Under Secretary, Jon will provide continuity at the Patent and Trademark Office.

The issue of this government's position on patents is a critical one in this ever-expanding world of scientific progress. I can think of no one better qualified to lead the Patent and Trademark Office. I urge the Committee to confirm this fine public servant as Under Secretary of Commerce so that he may continue to serve the best interest of the American people.

Thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you today.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

#### HONORING THE TEACHERS OF AMERICA

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my appreciation to the teachers of America. As we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, it is important that we recognize the good people of this Nation who hold the keys to our future and the future of our children, the unselfish, dedicated teachers who spend their days taking care of America's future.

Our teachers help our children in many ways. They are leaders. They are inspirations that provide students with the foundation that they take with them for a lifetime, and they learn to believe in themselves. When we succeed, they are guiding us to our next great accomplishments. When we fail, they are the understanding hearts that lift us back up. Teachers are truly noble professionals.

In 1944, Mattye Whyte Woodridge, an Arkansas teacher, began corresponding with political educational leaders about establishing a national observance to honor members of the teaching profession. This effort came to fruition when Congress proclaimed National Teacher Day in 1953.

I encourage those with children in school to offer their support and their

thanks for the work done by our children's teachers. As a former educator, I know that your appreciation for their efforts will be most welcome.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to the teachers who helped me many years ago. Inez Grovenstein, who got me through first grade; Mary Brunson, who guided me through fifth grade after I lost my mother tragically at the age of 10; and Mary Catherine Counts, who solved the mysteries of high school math too many years ago.

These are teachers much like teachers around our Nation who have made a lasting impression on the minds of young America and whose lessons I greatly appreciate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

#### RUMSFELD TERMINATION/ INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for two reasons: to call for President Bush to fire Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld for failing to act upon reports of the disgusting photographs and inhumane treatment of Iraqi prisoners, and I also call upon the U.S. House of Representatives to hold hearings into the role private contractors may have played in these incidents.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush has repeatedly allowed the United States' reputation with the international community to be tarnished and has not held his appointees accountable for this damage. Whether it was going to war based upon inaccurate intelligence information, or White House officials exposing the identity of one of our own CIA operatives, or the most recent revelation about the inhumane treatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, President Bush refuses to hold his people accountable.

According to recent media reports, administration officials, including Secretary Rumsfeld, have known about these abuses for months, yet they failed to act on repeated recommendations to improve conditions for thousands of Iraqi detainees. In response,