

CURRENT AFFAIRS AND SMART SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy, heavy heart. When we turn on the television or the radio or open a newspaper, what we hear and what we read is the great sadness that accompanies the deaths of so very many people around our world.

Reading the newspaper this week, we read that the lives of innocent men, women, and children are being taken in such disparate places as Sudan and Uganda in Africa; Israel, the Palestinian territories and Iraq in the Middle East; Haiti in the Caribbean; Chechnya and Afghanistan in Asia; and countless others places around the world.

Today, another distressing event took place, the beheading of an American civilian in Iraq, a video of which was posted on a militant Islamic Web site. This was a man who ventured to Iraq to help with the rebuilding of its infrastructure, a man whose only crime was traveling to an unstable country, thinking he might be able to make a contribution in the midst of all the chaos. He was 26 years old. This is a terrible tragedy.

But we are no longer surprised to hear that tragedies of this sort are occurring every day around the world. No country is immune. No group of people can avoid the misfortune that is accompanied by simply existing, by simply being alive in today's world.

In Haiti, for example, hundreds of innocent people have died of starvation. They are so hungry they are eating cakes made of butter, salt, water and mud. Mud. Yet here in the United States we do not act.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) has introduced a sensible resolution that would establish comprehensive health systems in Haiti. Despite the amount of news coverage that Haiti has received these last few months, less than 10 percent of this House has signed on to the gentlewoman from California's (Ms. LEE) important legislation.

We watch, as we did during the catastrophic Armenian genocide of the early 1900s and during the Holocaust of the 1940s. We make claims of never again, but then we sit back and watch as these events occur again and again and again.

Is this the way humans are going to live out their lives on this Earth? Are we not destined for more? Are we not better than the sum of all these innocent deaths? Can we not address the economic gap between rich and poor, between rich countries and poor countries, between rich individuals and poor individuals?

There has to be a better course for humankind than the one we are currently on; and there is, one that emphasizes brains instead of brawn, one

that is consistent with the best American values.

I have introduced legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART treats wars as an absolute last resort. It fights terrorism with a stronger intelligence and multilateral partnerships. It controls the spread of weapons of mass destruction with a renewed commitment to non-proliferation, and it aggressively invests in the development of impoverished nations with an emphasis on women's health and education.

The Bush doctrine has been tried, and it has failed. It is time for a new national security strategy. SMART security defends America by relying on the very best of America: our commitment to peace, our commitment to freedom, our compassion for the people of the world and our capacity for multilateral leadership.

SMART security is tough, pragmatic, and patriotic. SMART security is smart, and it will keep America safe.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to, first of all, congratulate St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston, Texas, in this week of acknowledging the uninsured for a briefing this morning to emphasize the numbers of uninsured in my community, in Houston, Texas, that draws our attention to the 44 million who are uninsured around the Nation. I would only say that is it not tragic that we have made choices that do not allow us to effectively provide the resources for our Nation and those within it.

□ 2045

And then I would like to acknowledge the World Food Program, because they feed 110 million people in 82 countries. It would be wonderful if we could focus our attentions on feeding the hungry and ensuring that those who need to be insured are.

St. Joseph's Hospital opened for the first time since Hurricane Allison in Houston, Texas, in 2001, their emergency room. But we are most glad they are a hospital with a conscience who are prepared and willing to sacrifice and work hard so that the doors of their hospital can be open to those who are in need.

This week, we will proceed with debates on a number of health policy initiatives. Unfortunately, I think they play right into the hands of politics and politicians. Frankly, we have individuals, children, the elderly and others who are sick and uninsured, and we need to do something about it, which would be full insurance and coverage

for all Americans so that we can rise to the level that is not with shame.

I speak about choices this evening, Mr. Speaker, because it is imperative that we continue to raise the consciousness not only of our colleagues but the American people. I have often said that we can debate, as we are supposed to debate in the halls of Congress and on the floor of this House, because democracy is the underpinning of what these two Houses are about, the House and the Senate, and the three branches of government. But I ask the American people, where is your outrage? This morning I asked if your prisoners of war were held in a sovereign nation and the abuse that was shown over the last couple of days were rendered unto those who carried American citizenship, where would be your outrage?

Would you accept the fact that enlisted men and women, no matter whether they were from North Korea or some other country, was sufficient to answer the question of how these young men and women were put in the position of being the only ones that would find themselves before courts of law and the military court of justice? Or would you express such outrage that you would suggest it went to the highest levels of government?

I ask that question because I believe that is what we find ourselves in today. Let me remind you of what has happened. The human rights record of the United States is now in question. The United States foreign relations and policy is now in question. Adjudication under the Uniform Code of Military Justice is now in question. The separation of powers is now in question under the Constitution. Adherence to and respect for international law is now in question because of the Geneva Convention. The state of national security of the United States is now in question. The safety of Americans is now in question. The very fact that we have military personnel now endangered by our acts is now in question.

Today, tragically, one more mother and one more father lost a young man who had gone to Iraq simply to do good, to participate in the rebuilding of Iraq. We saw the horrific and terrible indication that he was murdered in a most intolerable way. What can we say about this, other than the fact that the pictures that have been distributed all over the world have contributed to America's demise, with people suggesting that we have lost our high moral ground.

I know the American people have not lost that position in this world. We are defenders of peace. We view the importance of life over death and peace over war. So, I say to the President and to this administration, it goes to the very highest levels of government. We are required by the world's sentiment and what is right to be done, which is for the removal of all of those who have been engaged, from the very lowest to the very highest, Secretary Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and