

so, therefore, there would be no need for a robust force post-war to keep the peace, no need for body armor for the troops or armored Humvees.

And, in fact, the administration fired the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff because he did not believe that stuff and said we would need 300,000 troops or more to maintain the order. Of course, he was right; they were wrong. But how could they be so wrong?

I guess you could be wrong if you took your intelligence from a convicted fugitive, bunko artist, bank embezzler, and that was the chief source of intelligence and information for this administration. Despite the fact that the CIA severed all ties with Mr. Chalabi 7 years ago, despite the fact that the State Department rejected Mr. Chalabi quite some time ago, the Bush principals involved in planning and executing this war, particularly Mr. Wolfowitz who was one of Mr. Chalabi's dearest friends and compatriots, believed Chalabi over their own CIA, over the people at the State Department and in other intelligence agencies.

They said, oh, no, Ahmad, he is telling us what is really going on in Iraq. He is giving us good information.

In fact, Chalabi was invited to a meeting of the Defense Policy Board 9 days after September 11, and he said, hey, skip Afghanistan and go into Iraq. Luckily, that initial advice from Mr. Chalabi was ignored. But at the same time he began building the case that there would be no guerrilla warfare and there would be quickly a new democratic government with him as its chosen head and that showers of flowers would come upon the troops and Mr. Chalabi and others.

He was close and met with Condoleezza Rice, Vice President CHENEY and Secretary Wolfowitz. Mr. Chalabi, despite the protestations of this administration and all attempts to hide their ties to him, was provided \$39 million for his phoney intelligence by this administration, \$340,000 a month in a stipend that continued even after his lies regarding weapons of mass destruction and the post-war environment in Iraq. Even then the administration continued to give him \$340,000 a month.

He was flown into Iraq before the war was over by the Pentagon with the idea that he was going to become the new anointed president and leader. They had to quickly evacuate him when they found out that the Iraqi people did not think as much about this convicted bunko artist, fugitive, bank embezzler as did the CIA and others. They basically ran him out of the country until the U.S. established control.

He is, of course, not repentant about the bad information he gave us. He said, "As far as we are concerned, we," meaning he and the other fraud members of the INC, "have been entirely successful. Saddam is gone, Americans are in Baghdad, and what we said before is not important," and that is all of the lies he told us.

He went on to say the U.S. intelligence agencies are at fault because intelligence people are supposed to do a better job for their country and did not do such a good job. That is Mr. Wolfowitz and others who believed his lies were at fault, according to Mr. Chalabi, not he or the others who lied to us, misled us, and caused death of American troops and a lot of chaos in Iraq.

Now the director of DIA testified in March that all of the intelligence he gave us was either fabricated or embellished. The National Intelligence Council now says the intelligence was useless. Of course, his money was cut off last month. But, unfortunately, he did more damage than even that.

He has compromised the U.S. dramatically in the Middle East. As we see today, a headline story in the New York Times, "Chalabi reportedly told Iran that the U.S. had broken their code" which will mean incredible problems for the United States in gathering intelligence in that region where we already had scant resources.

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Now the Bush administration, Mr. Wolfowitz and others, are trying to pretend like they never met this guy before. They did not give him \$36 million, they did not base their war strategy on his phony intelligence, and they are not "best buds."

Well, you are judged by the friends you keep, and they cannot separate themselves from this. It has caused tremendous harm to our country, and those in the Bush administration who pushed Mr. Chalabi's information should be held to account. It has caused deaths of American troops.

CREATING A SENSIBLE, MULTILATERAL, AMERICAN RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in their public speeches about the war in Iraq, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY often invoke the notion of sacrifice and responsibility. They insist that every American support their war in Iraq, and those that do not are labeled un-American, traitors, even treasonous.

According to this model, then, it follows that the White House would encourage patriotic, trustworthy companies to carry out the reconstruction of Iraq's war-torn infrastructure, their schools and hospitals, public buildings, roads and more. But that is just not happening.

Halliburton, which has been awarded reconstruction contracts left and right, does not seem terribly motivated by Bush and CHENEY's notion of sacrifice and responsibility. Perhaps all those no-bid contracts have gone to their

heads, or perhaps Halliburton is still reeling from the fumes of the millions of gallons of gasoline it has been contracted to import into Iraq, one of many hefty contracts specifically coordinated by DICK CHENEY's office.

You may recall that Vice President CHENEY is the former CEO of Halliburton. The problem is that, once again, the Vice President has lied to the American people about his involvement with his old employer, an employer that still pays him nearly \$200,000 each year in deferred salary and with whom he holds nearly 500,000 company shares.

On September 4 of last year, Vice President CHENEY said on "Meet the Press," "As Vice President, I have absolutely no influence of, involvement of, knowledge of in any way, shape or form of contracts let by the Corps of Engineers or anybody else in the Federal Government."

But that statement deeply contradicts an internal Pentagon e-mail obtained by Time Magazine, sent by an Army Corps of Engineers official on March 5, 2003, stating that the Vice President's office specifically coordinated a recent multibillion dollar contract in Iraq with Halliburton. That is the Vice President's office.

The e-mail specifies that Undersecretary of Defense Douglas Feith had appallingly "coordinated" the contract with the Vice President's office.

I wonder if Vice President CHENEY's coordination of lucrative contracts for his former employer appeals to the same high patriotic standards that he regularly invokes for the rest of us in his speeches. Or perhaps there is a double standard at work, a policy of patriotism when it is convenient, and another policy of sheer greed and selfishness when Halliburton comes knocking on the door with its \$200,000 in annual deferred salary for the Vice President. There has to be a better way, because the Bush doctrine of cronyism has been tried; and it has failed utterly. It is time for a new security strategy, one that emphasizes brains instead of brawn, depends on quality and sincerity in all business negotiations, and one that is consistent with the best American values.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism. SMART treats war as an absolute last resort. It fights terrorism with stronger intelligence and multilateral partnerships that control the spread of weapons of mass destruction with a renewed commitment to nonproliferation; and it aggressively invests in the development of impoverished nations, with an emphasis on women's health and education.

The United States can no longer afford foreign presidents watching as our national leaders reward their buddies with contracts worth billions of dollars and then turn around and call dissemblers unpatriotic and un-American.

Instead, let us rely 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.

Let us be smart about our future. SMART security is tough, SMART security is pragmatic and patriotic, and it will keep America safe.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS REPORT ON USDA WASTE

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today as a member of the Washington Waste Watchers, a Republican working group dedicated to rooting out rampant waste, fraud, abuse and duplication in the Federal bureaucracy.

Despite the major economic recovery that is under way, despite more new jobs and historic rates of homeownership, Democrats keep demanding that we take tax relief away from American families. Take away the tax relief that is responsible for the unparalleled growth in our economy, the tax relief that is creating jobs, the very same tax relief that has actually added revenues to our Federal Treasury. That is right, the Treasury Department reports that revenues are up due to tax relief-generated economic growth.

When it comes to the Federal deficit, Mr. Speaker, our fiscal challenges lie on the spending side, not on the taxing side; and that is where we must focus our attention. And by any measure, spending is out of control in Washington. For only the fourth time in the history of our Nation, the Federal Government is now spending over \$20,000 per family. This is up from just \$16,000 just 5 years ago. This represents the largest expansion of the government in 50 years. Since I have been alive, the Federal budget has grown seven times faster than the family budget.

Clearly we have a spending problem, not a taxing problem. Now is not the time to raise taxes on American families, as so many Democrats seek to do; but it is time to take the trash out in Washington, the waste, the fraud, the abuse, the duplication.

Let me give you just a few typical examples we found recently in just one government department, the Department of Agriculture. The Office of Rural Rental Housing made \$4.4 million in rental subsidy overpayments in just one State simply because they could not verify the income of the recipients.

Can you imagine going to a bank or an automobile dealer and having them just hand out a loan without verifying your income? Do they not typically ask for a pay stub or a tax return? It is only common sense in the rest of America, but apparently not with many Federal bureaucrats. And Demo-

crats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this? \$4.4 million of the people's hard-earned money squandered. That is enough money to fully armor 142 Humvees in Iraq.

Because the Rural Utility Service will not allow water and waste projects to be funded by both government grants and private loan sources, American taxpayers paid for more than \$85 million of unnecessary grants over a 4-year period. This same agency made loans totaling about \$100 million to projects that could have been financed with private credit. Instead, taxpayers, American families, were forced to finance them. This policy does not make any sense, yet Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this? That \$85 million in unnecessary grants could have been used to purchase over 53,000 Kevlar vests for our troops in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, almost everyone believes that we should help provide adequate nutrition for the neediest Americans; but because a food stamp program State agency in the Midwest did not provide oversight over its field offices, and because they had not performed a management review in over 7 years, almost \$2 million in Federal funding was improperly spent on administration of the food stamp program in the year 2000. That money could have bought 720,000 gallons of milk for food stamp recipients in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine starting up a small business and not reviewing your finances for over 7 years? My guess is the business would go bankrupt. Yet Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this?

Mr. Speaker, this is just the tip of the iceberg. The list goes on and on and on, and so does the waste, the fraud, the abuse and duplication. It has been going on for decades.

Republicans are working hard to root out the waste of American tax dollars, but too often our Democrat colleagues keep fighting us every step of the way. Last year, the Committee on the Budget approved a budget asking for authorizing committees to identify just 1 percent, just 1 percent, of waste and fraud and abuse within their budgets. But again the Democrats fought us every step of the way. One of their leaders reviled our efforts, ridiculed it, and said it was "a senseless and irresponsible exercise."

Mr. Speaker, the American people disagree. With the Nation at war and with a large Federal budget deficit, there is no better time than now to root out this senseless waste, fraud and abuse, because when it comes to Federal programs, it is not how much money Washington spends that counts; it is how Washington spends it.

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

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

REASONS WHY ADMINISTRATION HAS TO GO

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I can hardly stop laughing after that last speech. You would think the Republicans were not in charge here. I think he was talking about President Bush and the Republican House and the Republican Senate that is wasteful. They have shoveled it out the door to all kinds of things.

Mr. Speaker, I read a quote the other day that astonished and frightened me. I think most Americans feel the same way. Here it is:

"The world should have expected the shocking photographs of Iraqi prisoners being tortured at the Abu Ghraib prison."

That is a pretty strong message, the kind of damning statement about U.S. foreign policy in Iraq that we might expect our enemies to say and even use to recruit. But the words were spoken by the head of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Kahn went even further in her remarks, saying U.S. policy has actually made the world a more dangerous place. "Sacrificing human rights in the name of security at home, turning a blind eye to abuses abroad and using preemptive military force when and where it chooses, have neither increased security nor ensured liberty." And, tragically, this sentiment is likely to get worse. The world now knows that at least three prisoners have died in U.S. custody in Afghanistan. There are other allegations apparently under investigation of beatings and sexual abuse.

As it stands now, we might never know the full extent of U.S. prisoner abuse in Afghanistan, because the top U.S. general says it is classified.

The AP quotes Lieutenant General David Barno as saying anything made public will contain only "some of the key conclusions." Also being kept secret are the "specific techniques used," the commander said. Those are code words for things like beating and hooding and other abuses.

The International Red Cross has been trying to get into other U.S. prison facilities in Iraq besides Abu Ghraib, but the Red Cross has been denied access. What else is yet to be discovered? Why is the military stamping "secret" on its activities in U.S. prisons in Iraq? The AP says evidence of abuse has surfaced in at least three other detention facilities in Iraq. "Secret" is what the administration and its civilians in charge at the Pentagon are saying.

The honor of every decent U.S. soldier is tarnished by prisoner abuse that the administration refuses to account