

channels. Were you briefed on his findings in February or March of 2002?

Vice President CHENEY responds, no, I do not know Joe Wilson. I never met Joe Wilson.

Now, why wouldn't the Vice President of the United States of America just tell the truth and say, yes, I know Joe Wilson. We looked into some issues. I had Libby look at it. Why would he not come out and tell the truth? Instead, what he says is, I do not know Joe Wilson, which we now know, according to Mr. Libby, assuming that is accurate, according to the indictment, the Vice President is the one that told Mr. Libby about Joe Wilson. Yet 3 months later we have the Vice President of the United States telling America he did not know Joe Wilson.

Now this causes me pause as an old prosecutor. And this is not a criminal matter. From my basis, we should not be wrapped about the axle of criminality but we should insist that Americans be able to trust the administration when it comes to war and peace; and we do not have that level of trust right now.

We need the cooperation of the President of the United States and the Vice President to come clean about what happened here and ask and answer questions that both Congress has, which they have refused to do, that is why we have the other Chamber wrapped up in this issue today, and ask questions that we ask essentially of the President and the Vice President. America deserves that.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, I believe you have the next hour, sir. We are running out of time. What I am going to do is, if you could, we want to get that Web site so we can click over and have more time so that we can continue to talk about this issue.

I am pleased that the Members who have been following this issue for a very long time on behalf of the American people are here. If you can give the Web site, I would appreciate it, real quick.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. You can get ahold of us at 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov. We are going to get up these facts on the Web site, too, so you can follow them.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we want to thank the Democratic Leader and the Democratic leadership for allowing us to have this hour.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we are going to keep on rolling here. We have so many facts to deal with.

Part of the conversation that we were just engaged in is we know that Karl Rove lied to the American people. We know that Scooter Libby has mis-

represented facts and been indicted on five counts: one obstruction of justice, two making false statements, and two committing perjury, lying to Federal agents and lying to the grand jury.

We know that the Vice President of the United States has clearly, clearly withheld information from the American people, that the indictment has said that he knew all about, regarding the Valerie Plame investigation.

□ 2200

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to understand that not only did the Vice President and his chief of staff, Mr. Libby, withhold information from the American people; they have made a decision to withhold from the Senate Intelligence Committee key documents. It was reported just this past week in a national magazine, the National Journal, that the Vice President and Mr. Libby overruled advice from some White House political staffers, some White House political staffers and lawyers, and decided to withhold crucial documents from the Senate Intelligence Committee in 2004. The withheld documents included intelligence data from CHENEY's office and Libby in particular, that they pushed to be included in Powell's speech, referring to his presentation before the United Nations.

The new information, and I am reading here, the new information that CHENEY and Libby blocked information to the Senate Intelligence Committee further underscores the central role played by the Vice President's office in trying to blunt criticism that the Bush administration exaggerated intelligence data to make the case to go to war.

They withheld it from the Senate. They withheld it from the Senate. And because there is no conduct of vigorous oversight either in this Chamber or in the Senate, our democracy is being shrouded in this cloud of secrecy.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) earlier said, What did we do it for? Why? Why? Why, I guess, is going to be the question that people will ask far into the future. If you remember, first it was about the weapons of mass destruction. No weapons of mass destruction. It was about some alleged al Qaeda links, a haven for terrorism. No al Qaeda links. Saddam Hussein despises Osama bin Laden and vice versa because Saddam Hussein, albeit an evil individual, was a secularist. He is not one of these fundamental Islamists. He is just a regional thug. And then finally it was to bring democracy to Iraq.

I think it is so ironic that we are bringing democracy to Iraq and simultaneously eroding democracy because of the secrecy in Washington, D.C.

What a tragedy.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) said we are eroding basic freedoms here. And if you do not believe that, if you do not believe all of

these facts that we are giving to the Speaker and to the American people and to our colleagues through third-party validators, if you weaken the Central Intelligence Agency, all you have done is weaken a country. That is all you have done.

And through the leak, through the outing of Joe Wilson's wife, and outing Brewster-Jennings and Associates, the small Boston company that was a front company for the CIA, you also out every contact that this woman has established over a 20-plus-year career. All of her contacts over 20-some years that maybe she could go back to and elicit and solicit information from them, she cannot any longer.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Maybe somebody can help me, because this is a question that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) posed, but this is directed to this specific case.

What does it tell you about an administration that will not confront a direct challenge as former Ambassador Joe Wilson put forward? Why not just simply say he is wrong and we are confident that he is wrong? But, no, furtively, in the shadows, sneakily calling reporters, we have got something. His wife works for the CIA. Whether it was illegal, whether this indictment will result in guilty, whether Karl Rove is indicted, whether others are indicted, the bottom line is what does it say about the sleaze factor that exists here in Washington when you do it that way?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you right now, this goes far, once again, beyond politics. This is serious business.

We have Members here who have traveled abroad. I have. I am on the Armed Services Committee. I am on the Homeland Security Committee. If you know how it was to go down to a hotel lobby and go to a restaurant where you are staying there at a hotel, you come back to a hotel after official meetings with the government and you do not understand what people are saying, need it be French, need it be Arabic, need it be Spanish or what have you, now, just think for a minute. If I were a CIA agent in a foreign land, or someone in a friendly country that works with the United States as it relates to sharing sensitive information, how do they feel right now? How do they feel about America right now? How do they feel about our executive branch right now? And how do they feel about the Congress? This is going to hurt us.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) put it just as clear as it can be. It is weakening a country when it comes down to getting the intelligence to protect all of us here in the United States and our allies. And I think it is important, I think it is important, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) hit the nail straight on the head. Like we say down in Florida, he hit the nail straight on the head just like a good carpenter.

The bottom line is that we are not here to hand down guilty verdicts; but we are here to say the statements that were made to FBI agents, statements that were made to the grand jury, statements that were made to the special prosecutor were incorrect and misleading. Statements that were made on national television on Sunday shows, need it be talking to the press in the press corps, at the White House, we now find were incorrect.

Now, as it relates to indictments and the conviction of Mr. Libby or possible indictment as it relates to Mr. Rove, this thing is far beyond Mr. Rove and Mr. Libby. This is about outing individuals that have dedicated their lives to go behind enemy lines and live amongst them to get information to protect everyday Americans. I cannot help but think of the veterans that laid their lives down right now, 2,000-plus recently, Gulf War I, Vietnam, Korea, other conflicts, World War II.

I was riding through the Mall with my children just about 2 or 3 weeks ago, and we stopped by the World War II Memorial. We saw the different States as you look at the World War II Memorial with the water, a very nice memorial. We dedicated it last year. I was telling my kids about it and the allied force and all of those folks that gave their lives so we could salute the Flag and it is flying high. It was a coalition of countries that fought for democracy on the face of the Earth. For people to not think of that commitment and that sacrifice, that those individuals, and some are still walking this Earth, some have gone on to a greater place, for them to selfishly think of political gain to out these individuals is beyond me and unconscionable.

So I say there must be Members on the majority side who have the power to do the right thing in this case, but they have opted not to. So when folks start, when you said before what are we doing, we are pushing the card not on behalf of the Democratic Party; we are pushing the card on behalf of Americans and those veterans that are without limbs right now, those veterans that have to get assistance to get up out of bed right now, who fought for the Flag to fly over this very Capitol.

I am not saying that Members who are not focused on this issue are unpatriotic. That is not what I am saying. I am saying that we have a responsibility as the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) has said, not only in the White House but in the Congress to make sure that the truth comes forward so we can protect American lives. Period. Dot. That is just what it is.

This is far beyond a campaign against a certain Congressman or President or Vice President or a party. This is about national security of our country and countries that are working with us.

Do you think that someone wants to put their agents up front with an American agent, not because the Amer-

ican agent they feel lacks qualification to get sensitive information. They are scared because someone may out their agent and our agent because of a political campaign. That is what this is all about.

This is not about one day someone woke up and grabbed a doughnut and coffee and said, I think I will out a CIA agent today. I think I will do that because I feel like it. No. It was about saying that we know our intelligence is bad and anyone that rises up and says different we will destroy them. We will destroy him and we will destroy his wife. We will do what we have to do to make sure that we win.

What is happening is that the American people are more in danger under that philosophy than under what we are supposed to be doing statutorily. And when you have a security clearance, let me tell you, there are a lot of things I want to share with some folks but I cannot, because I took an oath and I signed an oath that I will hold secrecy not because I am not fearful of losing my security clearance. I am fearful that someone may lose their life behind enemy lines because I thought I wanted to say something to prove a point.

It does not come to that. This is blood. This is life and death. And we do not even know, someone could have lost their life behind this. We do not know that yet. We need to get to the bottom of this, and the bottom line is if the majority is not willing to do what they must do, not what they should do, not if they could, what they must do, if they are not willing to do it, then that is something the American people have to take into account.

I tell you one thing, the ride to the soccer game and sitting there feeling that you have a sense of security may not be what it is right now if this kind of activity continues.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I just keep asking myself where is their outrage, where is their shame? Why are we the only ones that appear upset about this? Why by their deafening silence does it seem as though they are sanctioning the activity that is going on in the White House? Sanctioning the corruption, sanctioning the cronyism and the culture that has been established here?

And it would be one thing, you could say, all right, we are going to compartmentalize, many people compartmentalize things. There are many Americans that may say, you know, foreign policy is not my concern. Of course, everybody in America cares about the loss of life, and I am sure that there is not one American that does not feel sadness over how many troops we have lost, but let us say you have Americans that can compartmentalize the foreign policy and comfort themselves by saying, I know, I think what has gone on is awful, but they are making up for it. The administration makes up for it with their fabulous domestic policy with the way they are taking care of things at home.

Are we satisfied with the direction we are going? Tonight in south Florida, today all day and tomorrow it is expected again to be pouring down rain. I have 90-year-olds, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) and I have 90-year-olds and older sitting in squalid apartments tonight with molding wet carpeting, with holes in their roofs who are not getting the assistance they need because FEMA is a disaster of an organization. It is supposed to be a disaster relief organization. They are a disaster all by themselves.

I want to tell you what my 6-year-old daughter said this morning. We were watching TV. I was getting ready and I was watching the news and she was in there with me. And she said, Mom, is Hurricane Rita coming? Because 6-years-old do not know the difference. Rita. Wilma. They just hear the names on TV, and there is not a lot of clear understanding.

I said, No, Hurricane Rita is long gone. You can imagine a 6-year-old living in Florida. There is a lot of fear of the concepts of hurricanes and one after the other after the other keeps coming down the pike.

□ 2215

So my telling her that Rita was long gone and there was no need to worry anymore, that satisfied her.

The report on the news about hurricanes in general went on for a few minutes, and I was not near the TV so I could not hear exactly what they were saying, but all of a sudden she said, Mom, I know what it is; hurricane FEMA is coming. I laughed, and I explained to her what FEMA was and tried to help her understand, that FEMA is supposed to be an agency that gets us ready when a hurricane is coming and takes care of us after a hurricane passes and makes sure that people are okay again.

Mr. DELAHUNT. A point that you made earlier and you referenced the natural disaster, and I am thinking of Katrina. We are talking about whether America is safer today than we were prior to 9/11, and we all know and I am sure the American people that are listening to our conversation here tonight appreciate this, that those levees in New Orleans, they could have been sabotaged. They could have been victimized by a terrorist cell. It did not necessarily require a natural disaster.

But here we are. We have spent billions and billions and billions of dollars on homeland security, and where are we? We are nowhere. But the American taxpayers are picking the bill up. As we discussed last week, not only are the American taxpayers spending money here and not effectively, not effectively, this has been an administration that spends the American taxpayers' dollars.

But, by the way, we are also spending money to rebuild Iraq. But rather than, like every other major donor country in Iraq that loaned the money to the Iraqi government and said we will give

you good terms but pay us back, this White House, in an act of unparalleled excess, in my judgment, made it a give-away program: Welfare for Iraqis, but nothing for Americans. I mean, up is down and down is up. This is the Alice in Wonderland administration.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That is the pattern. Because there is no accountability in Iraq, and just giving away the store, contracts without any accountability.

In Florida, we have been hit by eight hurricanes in 15 months. A year ago, FEMA gave out \$31 million in reimbursement and assistance to people who were not even hit by a hurricane in Miami Dade County, one of the counties that I represent. So my answer to my daughter this morning was, honey, even though this is an agency, a department in the government that is supposed to take care of people after a hurricane comes by, many people think they are doing such a poor job that it feels like they got hit by hurricane FEMA after they have come through. That is what is going on in Florida tonight as we speak.

You still have them make mistake after mistake, no communication, and yet this leadership and this Congress still refuses to appoint an independent Katrina commission to ensure that we can review the aftermath of that storm, the aftermath of Rita and Wilma and find out why they were not ready, what happened.

We still have 4 weeks left of hurricane season. We are in a 15- to 20-year run of expected really tough storms, and I mean we have an administration that we have to count on now until 2008. Do we want to leave these people in peril in charge of every branch of our government? Do the American people have that kind of confidence? Culture of corruption, cronyism, and incompetence.

It is time to make some changes so we can take this country in a new direction and reinstate Americans' confidence in their government's ability to do right by them. Up and down the line, they have proven that they do not deserve that confidence. They have not earned it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If maybe they paid a little more attention to actually administering government instead of, A, running it down and, B, trying to use the levers of government to try to hurt our own CIA agents, can you imagine the amount of time that was spent trying to organize this outing of this agent after Joe Wilson came back? Can you imagine how much that consumed the White House? Instead of thinking about better, more efficient and effective ways to administer government, they were spending all that time trying to out Joe Wilson's wife. What a misuse of government power. That is a clear abuse of power and the sleaze factor of the whole deal.

I will be happy to yield to my friend.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I suppose we should feel ourselves fortunate that

the administration, after the failures in Katrina, did not out some other intelligence agent, one of their critics. So I do not know if they have learned their lesson or not. I should not be facetious about such an important thing.

Let me ask a question on this. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) points out accurately, imagine the incredible high level of energy that the highest level of government in the United States, what they were focused on when the truth came out that they told something untrue about the uranium yellow cake in the State of the Union. What did they do? Instead of saying, let us get to the bottom of how this happened so it does not happen again, the first thing they did is say we are going to attack our critics and we are going to attack them by outing the wife of one of the critics. We are going, as you indicated, to spend this enormous amount of energy.

Karl Rove, Chief of Staff to the President of the United States, is it the most important thing he can do is try to destroy the credibility of Joe Wilson who wrote what turned out to be a true article for the New York Times? Is it the best use of time for the Chief of Staff for the Vice President of the United States to organize this sophisticated campaign to smear Mr. Wilson?

Why was it they were willing to make this such a high-priority issue? I think there is a clear answer to that.

The reason that they were so concerned about this is that they realized that their case for war on Iraq was built on this sort of one-legged stool of the mushroom cloud. What they figured out was that the vision, the image of the mushroom cloud could scare Americans so badly that they could win the right to go to this war. Once that was gone, their justification for the war was gone. It was imperiled once the truth came out, because the only thing they had was this uranium yellow cake which was shown to be a fraud.

How do I know it was a fraud? It was not Mr. Wilson. By the way, some people have said Mr. Wilson's report did not show that; it was inaccurate. Well, hogwash. The President of the United States retracted the 16 words from his State of the Union speech once Mr. Wilson blew the whistle. They would not have retracted it unless it was wrong, and it was wrong, and they finally retracted it, but then they went on to smear Wilson.

I want to make a couple of comments about Joe Wilson, and the reason I do so is he has made clear it is not about Joe Wilson. This issue, he is not the important element here. It is the security of the American people and preventing the deterioration of our security service. That is the important thing.

But this administration you would think they would learn to quit attacking their critics after this has caused all this damage to the administration, but, no, they still have their hound

dogs out there attacking Joe Wilson, still trying to damage his credibility and say he is the lowest form of life on the planet.

I want to say two things about this guy, and I got to know him a little bit about this. He came out and spoke in Seattle about the Iraq situation.

During the first Iraq War, he was our last foreign service agent out of Baghdad. The very last representative of the United States who left Iraq was Joe Wilson. I tell you two little stories about him, what kind of guy he is.

I ran into a Foreign Service worker by accident on a bus heading to an airplane about 3 months ago who told me that, in the weeks leading up to the first Persian Gulf War, she had a family who came and had some children who were in possession of a stepfather in Mosul. She called Joe Wilson and said, can you help me make sure these kids are okay? She said, I know I am asking you a lot because right now the war could break out at any moment. There is chaos on the roads. Security forces were already in Iraq. Joe Wilson personally made sure that kid was okay at risk to his own life, and he did not tell me that story. I just ran into this Foreign Service worker who told me about it.

The second thing, when Joe Wilson called all the Americans in Baghdad just in the few days before the bombings started and said, I want to try to get you out of the country, Saddam Hussein told Joe Wilson, I will kill anybody who tries to get an American out of here. He did not say so. Obviously, he wanted to maybe hold them hostage. That is a direct statement to you. You better leave those people here. Joe Wilson got those people into a building in Iraq, and it was not widely reported, but put a noose around his neck physically and said, Saddam Hussein, you can come get me because I am taking my people home. He took every single American home. Not a single American was lost to the deprivations to that madman thug Saddam Hussein.

I have to tell you I have some respect for Joe Wilson. He stood up to Saddam Hussein, and he stood up to Karl Rove, and I think it took some degree of courage to do both. It was a despicable act of Karl Rove, or whoever is responsible for this, to go after him, after he stood up for America against Saddam Hussein, to destroy the career of his wife and put in danger other security agents of this country.

Karl Rove messed with the wrong guy when he took on Joe Wilson, and I think that is something Americans ought to know.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I would like to just follow up a point that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) made about the rationale for the war. They did know, they meaning the cabal that was described by the Chief of Staff to Colin Powell. The cabal knew that they needed the threat of the mushroom cloud.

What is fascinating is that after the release of the initial report of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the chairman of the committee, a Republican, Senator ROBERTS from Kansas, and JAY ROCKEFELLER, the senior Democrat on the committee, said that they doubted that the Senate would have authorized the President to go to war if senators had been given accurate information regarding Iraq's programs on the weapons of mass destruction. The direct quote of the Republican chairman was this: "I doubt if the votes would have been there." That is Senator ROBERTS. They would not have their war if they had opened up and provided all of the information.

I am sure some of you read Bob Woodward's book, the reporter for the Washington Post, where he quoted Secretary of State Colin Powell as describing the Vice President as having a war fever. He is out of control. This is what Powell is saying. You talk about third-party validations. It is as if he had a war fever, and here we are today, rampant corruption in Iraq.

We are losing billions of dollar over there, but, as the congresswoman says, the most tragic aspect of this is that we are less safe, and, painfully, we have lost more than 2,000 American men and women.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. On this march to war, as the drumbeat quickened, it was we are going to destroy anybody in our path that tries to stop us and even if you are a CIA covert agent that has served this country in the intelligence community for years.

□ 2230

Now, earlier, my friend from Florida said, Well, how would these CIA agents feel? So I think it is nice for us to give our opinion, but I think we should actually quote a couple that have been in the news recently. One, former CIA covert agent Jim Marcinkowski on "60 Minutes" the other night said about exposing the Boston company, exposing that that was a CIA front, exposing Brewster-Jennings, could lead foreign intelligence agencies to other spies. There is a possibility that there were other agents that would use that same kind of a cover. So they may have been using Brewster-Jennings just like her.

As you said, this is not just about Joe Wilson's wife. This is about everybody who she came in contact with, who she worked with, who she may have been affiliated with in a CIA front company.

And then a former 14-year covert CIA operative. Now, you asked, What do they think? This is what they think. This is what is in the heart of a CIA covert agent right now. This is how they feel.

"Because we're talking about lives and we're talking about capabilities, we do our work. We risk our own lives. We risk lives of our agents in order to protect our country. And when something like this happens, it cuts to the very core of what we do. We're not

being undermined by the North Koreans. We're not being undermined by the Russians. We're being undermined by officials in our own government. That, I find galling."

Mr. MEEK of Florida. If my colleague can read that again, that "we're not being undermined by the North Koreans." Just go through that paragraph one more time.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. A former 14-year covert CIA operative, in regard to this whole CIA leak and the administration outing an agent: "We're not being undermined by the North Koreans. We're not being undermined by the Russians. We're being undermined by officials in our own government."

Mr. MEEK of Florida. With that, if I may, what is so disturbing about this whole thing, once again, is the fact that like my colleague from Florida, this whole culture idea, and we talked the other night that it takes a while to get a culture. It is an American culture to have picnics on July 4. It is cultural, I guess, for certain religions to practice a certain meal on a given day. It is within the culture. That means it is preserved. It is something that is accepted.

What has happened here in Washington, D.C. is that there is a culture of corruption and cronyism. When we say a culture of corruption and cronyism, that is not something that remotely happened on some given day 2 years ago. That is an everyday practice, and you would assume that it would stop. You would assume that we would disabuse ourselves of that kind of activity. You would assume.

The gentleman from Massachusetts mentioned "their war." Well, guess what, it is our war. It is our war. They are our men and women that are laying down their lives right now, whether it be part of our armed services or a contractor or foreign service Americans that are working in the biggest embassy in the world there in Baghdad, in Iraq. Millions upon millions and billions of dollars are being spent.

We talk about a culture of corruption and cronyism. I would say to the gentleman from Washington that the other day we talked about four of the big contractors that received no-bid contracts on the Katrina disaster that took place. They were under investigation for mishandling the taxpayers' money and falsifying documents by our own government.

I used an example of a company that is under investigation by our government where it is pretty much documented that they have overcharged the government for the services that they were supposed to be providing and, in some cases, never provided those services. Then we call them in when Katrina happens and say, Oh sure, here is another contract, no-bid, go out and do the work.

I used this example: it is almost like I run into a 7-11 and I am a contractor. I take my gun out and I tell the kid behind the counter to give me the money.

And I reach in there and grab \$200, and I run down the street. Then some of Washington, D.C.'s finest stop me. Police officers. We gotcha. Wait a minute. Just put that money in your pocket and put that gun back in your waistband and go out and rob some more. That is encouraging corruption. That is encouraging a crime.

That is what we have here. That is what we are encouraging here. So when folks come to the floor on the majority side or have a press conference that calls themselves fiscal conservatives, or we know how to run the government and they do not, speaking of Democrats, that kind of activity does not speak to it.

When the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the largest department not only in the Federal Government but in the history of the world, takes a former director, Michael Brown, of FEMA, and not only removes him from the position of being over the response at the time of the response to Hurricane Katrina and the recovery, and says, Well, we need to send him back to Washington, we are putting two or three other people over his responsibilities; but better yet, we will keep him on for 60 days so we can learn.

Mr. DELAHUNT. As a consultant.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. As a consultant. At the same rate he was making as a consultant. And lo and behold, just last week we hear, Oh, well, I extended his contract 30 more days so we can learn more. That is cronyism and it is on the breach of corruption.

Mr. DELAHUNT. You are so right.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. And I say to my colleague from Massachusetts that I am driving the point straight home. I am not as good as the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) in hitting that nail on the head.

Mr. DELAHUNT. You are doing pretty good, though.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I am not a carpenter.

Mr. DELAHUNT. The gentleman is a journeyman.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. This is far beyond someone saying that we are being political. This is about the taxpayers' money. This is about the responsibility of the Congress. I said it once and I will say it again: if the majority is not willing to lead, then there are enough individuals that have filed bills to bring about accountability on behalf of the taxpayers of the United States of America on this side of the aisle that are ready to go.

Not only are they in the locker room and ready to go; they are on the field with their mouthpiece in right now, chin strap buckled, ready to go out and hit somebody when it comes down to standing up on behalf of the taxpayers. So I think it is important that we do this.

And what we are talking about here, because this is not just a discussion about Iraq, this is not just a discussion as relates to outing CIA agents, as

heavy as both of those topics are, and they end up being intertwined, this is about the culture of corruption and cronyism that is going on here in Washington, D.C.

Just as an example today, the Senate used the rules to do what they had to do on behalf of the American people. And guess what they were called? Hijackers. They hijacked the Senate today, as though someone ran in on the Senate floor with a gun and said shut the Senate down. No, they used the rules on behalf of the American people. And guess what came out of it from news reports and what I hear from some of our friends across the aisle? The fact that they are going to do what, a bipartisan, three Democrats and three Republicans, who will come together to bring about the report that should have been reported on long ago. But it took an act of leadership and courage.

We need our friends on the majority side who have the power right now, because if we had such a rule here in the House we would exercise it to go see the wizard and get some courage and fight on behalf of the American people. If they do not want to do it, we are willing to do it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And the culture that the gentleman is describing, he is absolutely right. It is not isolated. It is not like you can cordon off this instance and say it was just an anomaly, it was unusual. When you have something that is essentially your culture, like their culture of corruption, it is what defines you. It is what drives you every day. The culture that you are raised in is your belief system. It is your traditions. It defines almost everything about you.

It is clear that up and down this administration, up and down this leadership, I wish it stopped just at the administration, but it flows all the way down through this institution on their side and beyond. And we are in deep trouble because this government is being run by people who live by a culture of corruption.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) talked earlier about the 14-year covert CIA operative who talked about how treacherous it was and how they were being undermined by officials in their own government. Well, I want to go back to what Mr. Melman said in that Chris Matthews interview. Not just what he said previously, but in that same interview we talked about earlier. Chris Matthews asked him if he thought that heads should roll, essentially, for that conduct. And what he said was: "I do not believe it would be hard for President Bush to ask that person to walk the plank."

I do not see the plank. I have not seen Rove walk off of it. He is there still. He is still the Deputy White House Chief of Staff with the highest security clearance, with the ability to assist the President in making the most important decisions that this country faces.

The New York Times on October 5, 2003, talked about the instance of treachery. Within the CIA, they said the exposure of Ms. Plame is now considered an even greater instance of treachery, as the gentleman from Ohio outlined. Miss Plame, a specialist in nonconventional weapons who worked overseas, had nonofficial cover and what was what in CIA parlance was called a nok, the most difficult kind of false identity for the agency to create.

So we are not just talking about your run-of-the-mill covert agent. I know as I have been following this, and we are obviously not intimately familiar with the CIA's operations, I initially thought that Ms. Plame was a nominal covert agent. I know there are varying degrees. But apparently she had the most difficult cover to develop. It makes matters that much worse.

We have got to make sure that the American people can trust the information and the people who are running this country. We have to be able to trust the information that comes out of the White House.

I have spoken, I know all my colleagues have too, to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have said that they no longer trust the information that comes from the White House; yet they continue to walk the plank for the administration and for their leadership. They do whatever they are told. They never stray.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If the gentlewoman will yield, Mr. Speaker. That is the point I think that we have been trying to make all night here, in our first hour and in this second hour, that this outfit who runs this Chamber and who runs the Senate and who runs the White House have over the past 11 years in the House, in the Senate on and off, and in the White House since the 2000 election, have consistently and constantly put the Republican Party before the interests of the United States of America.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Where is their backbone?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Every single time. Whether it was lying about the prescription drug bill and the amount it would cost, \$400 billion, and then we found out months later it would be 500, 600 and then \$700 billion. The war, the oil for reconstruction, the greeted as liberators, and all the nonsense we heard. Then the whole CIA leak investigation. Every single instance. Tax cuts for billionaires, cutting poverty programs and raising tuition and health care on the middle class. Every single instance.

Every single instance has put their party before the interests of the United States of America so that they could go down the shakedown street and raise money that the lobbyists will put in the Republican Party coffers and just keep the game going. From here to shakedown street, shakedown street into the Republican coffers, and then you get the legislation you want. And not in one instance has it been in the best interest of the country.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. The gentleman is absolutely right. It would be one thing if they could look us right in the eye and look the American people in the eye and their own constituents and say, I have consistently been voting exactly the way I feel. The votes I have cast go to the core of my principles, and I have always voted how I believe.

Only we know that not to be true. They could not possibly do that. They cannot have town hall meetings in their districts and look their folks in the eye and say, I have always voted my own convictions, because we have watched the read lights change to green lights, and the green rights change back to red lights. We watched this board over here.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Tears are shed, threats are made, and arms are twisted.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Oh, my God, puking blood. It is just unbelievable. They have this timer that they set with 5-minute votes that turn into 40-minute votes, like the energy bill. I was not here, but the Medicare bill, a 15-minute vote, over 3 hours. And all the while our vote board with our names up here in lights, arm-twisting, blood-puking, the green turning to red, yes to no, and literally the angst that I have watched on some of my colleagues' faces knowing they want to cast their vote with how they truly believe, but they care more about the money continuing to flow, about the chairmanships continuing to come their way, and about the appropriations continuing to remain in the budget.

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It is all about them. And when I ran for office, I thought it was supposed to be about the people I represented. That is why I came here. I am not sure why they came here. They have made it pretty clear, but I know that it is obvious that we came here for different reasons than they did.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. INSLEE. Just a couple of comments, Mr. Speaker. I want to applaud our Republican colleagues. I am told now there are a couple of Republicans in the other Chamber who are willing to see to it that the American people get this report from the Senate committee about the White House involvement and this misinformation. I think that is very important, and I applaud our Republicans in the Chamber who are standing up to do that.

But I want to mention why that is so very important. The gentlewoman from Florida talked about the fact that Valerie Plame was, in fact, an undercover agent; but I think it is really important to realize what she was working on. Her specialty was trying to suppress weapons of mass destruction. That was her specialty in the CIA.

What a great irony of it that here is a woman who dedicated her professional life to try to suppress the expansion of weapons of mass destruction, and yet she gets attacked and her career destroyed because the administration used bogus information in their State of the Union to assert there was a weapon of mass destruction when the evidence itself showed there was not. And I think her career ought to be respected.

And, by the way, I mentioned this admiral I was talking to today. We talked about the need for spies for the intelligence agency. I was not talking about this specific situation. But this bottom line is about the security interest of the United States, and both Republicans and Democrats ought to care about that, and both Republicans and Democrats ought to be behind getting to the bottom of this. That has not happened and it ought to.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

We are kind of wrapping things up here, and we have got some late-breaking news here that I think we want to share with the American people that just recently we got some information on.

Mr. DELAHUNT. This just came in.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And this kind of feeds into every single thing. This is always happening because we are paying so little attention to what the administration and government should be.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, let me just pick up on a point that I think all three of my colleagues made. And the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) and I, with our colleagues in Iraq Watch, Mr. Hoefel and Mr. ABERCROMBIE, always commented on the absolute lack of capacity to acknowledge mistakes, and we all commended and respected David Kay.

If my colleagues remember David Kay, he was designated by this President, by President Bush, in the aftermath of the so-called major failures of combat in Iraq, to go find the weapons of mass destruction. He was an advocate for the war. He believed in the premise of weapons of mass destruction. He listened to that cabal that put out that information. And he came back and testified before that Senate committee, and those words that he said ring so true now: we were all wrong. We were all wrong.

And you know what? If the President had made a statement similar to that, as all of my colleagues here have said in different ways, it would have been applauded and we would have respected it. But they do not want to share information.

For example, this information, a Pentagon official in Washington confirmed Tuesday that al-Farouq, a top al Qaeda operative, escaped from a U.S. detention facility in Bagram, Afghanistan on July 10, months ago; and we are not informed. Some enterprising

reporter presumably discovered this information; and here we are, five Members of Congress and I am sure our colleagues on the other side and members of the other branch on both sides of the aisle, unaware of this information. Why? Because it was an embarrassment. We all make mistakes. That is what we are saying. We acknowledge our imperfections. But the bottom line is that it is so tragic that we cannot come together, all of us, and make America better, go back to those genuine values that are the foundation for democracy of openness and transparency and accountability and the courage to stand up and say simply, I made a mistake.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we have a culture in Washington.

Mr. DELAHUNT. The gentleman is right. You have all hit it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. What we want for kids, for young people, it is not that we do not want them ever to make a mistake. We want to teach them that when they do make a mistake, they learn and they overcome and they become better. Every one of us in our own lives looks back on mistakes we have made and we say it was painful, it hurt, it was embarrassing, but today I am better because of that mistake. And to have the leaders of the country send a message out to the kids across the country, one, that it is okay to lie, that it is okay to withhold information because it may be a little bit embarrassing, that you are never able to make a mistake, that is bad for our kids. It is bad for our country. It is bad for our institution. It erodes the basic tenets of our democracy that a lot of people made a lot of great sacrifices, sometimes their lives, to uphold this concept that we have.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, the most troubling aspect of what he just said is the question why will they not admit that they made a mistake. And the troubling aspect of that is that they did not make a mistake. It was deliberate. There is a strong possibility, given all the things we talked about here tonight, that they took us into war because they wanted to take us into war, because they had some grand plan. They had motivation. They had "war fever," as the gentleman referenced earlier that Colin Powell indicated that Vice President CHENEY had. The ability to admit mistakes when one believes they made them, but one has to first believe they made one. That is kind of the first rule. And the lack of capacity to acknowledge that they made mistakes is just astonishing. It really is, and they continue to astonish us on this floor and the American people.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but think, when I talk about commitment and sacrifice, I just

represent too many veterans for me to even look beyond the front line that allowed us to even have this discussion here, kept this country free. I cannot help but think of the parents, wives, fathers that have a picture of their child, son, daughter, husband, wife hanging on the wall right now next to a Purple Heart. They lay down their life for this country. So this discussion is far beyond comprehension for me. I have gone to too many funerals, talked to too many parents, read too many stories for people to take this lightly.

I know we have said it once and we have said it twice and if we have got to say it 10,000 times, trying to keep up with a lie, my mother told me when I was young that if I tell a lie, I have to remember what I said when I said it. And that is the problem right now in Washington, D.C. There are so many lies that have been told to the American people, it is difficult to keep up with what was said in the first place. If it was the truth, it would not be a problem because it is enshrined in one's memory and in one's character.

So I will leave it with that. There is nothing more that I can add to that; but the reality for so many Americans, so many Americans that we represent, so many parents and wives and fathers and mothers that were handed a freshly folded, crisp American flag on behalf of their loved one and family member who lay down their lives for this country, their lives, literally, for those individuals who have to be fed by tubes right now, for those individuals who cannot get up and go to the restrooms like many of us right now, for those individuals we have got to continue to fight on their behalf and on behalf of their children that are without a father and mother.

So I commend the Members for coming to the floor. I am glad the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) has claimed this hour, and I think we have to do the things we must do within our power to stand up for those individuals.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would also like to thank everyone for being here for the 30-something Group.

And I want to make one final point because we have heard this on the talk shows from a lot of different sources about the CIA leak: well, they went after Libby for outing a CIA agent, and they only got him on perjury and false statements and obstruction of justice. And as we close here, I want to just reiterate what the prosecutor said. He said, I am the umpire and as I am trying to umpire the game here and figure out exactly what is going on, by their committing perjury, they were throwing dirt in my eye.

So maybe someone will end up getting indicted on this count or several counts of outing a CIA agent. But what Fitzgerald is saying is that when one lies to the grand jury and they lie to Federal agents, it is very difficult for him to prove his case because he cannot get to the truth. And I think in my

experience, just reading cases like this, if one really wants to get a prosecutor upset, as my two friends here probably know much better than I, start lying to him. And I think the end is not yet in sight, and it is going to be very interesting to see how Karl Rove ends up in this whole deal. And we know that there have been misleading statements and outright lies to the press and the American people.

So to our friends at home: 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov. They can send us an e-mail, and we will continue to try to organize these facts and let everyone know that the Democratic Party wants to put the country before our own party as we have before.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2005, AT PAGE H9424

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution authorizing the remains of Rosa Parks to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and through November 10 on account of official business.

Ms. HERSETH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and November 2 on account of the Global Health Conference.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PAUL) to revise and extend

their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and November 2 and 3.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today and November 2.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and November 2, 3, and 4.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today and November 2, 3, and 4.

Mr. WESTMORELAND, for 5 minutes, November 2.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3765. An act to extend through March 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities and to expedite the processing of permits.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 2, 2005, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4878. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting requests for FY 2005 supplemental appropriations for the Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Defense, Homeland Security, the Interior, State, and Veterans Affairs, as well as for International Assistance Programs; (H. Doc. No. 109-67); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

4879. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan by Executive Order 13067, is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2005, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 109-66); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

4880. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Fort Point Channel, MA. [CGD01-05-088] received September 26, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4881. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Trent River, NC [CGD05-05-117] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received September 26, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4882. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Townsend Gut, ME. [CGD01-05-081] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received September 26, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4883. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, Inside Thorofare, Ventnor City, New Jersey [CGD05-05-108] received September 26, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4884. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Newtown Creek, Dutch Kills, English Kills and their tributaries, New York City, NY [CGD01-05-082] received September 26, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4885. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Cordova, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-21447; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-17] received October 6, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4886. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Prospect Creek, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-21601; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-20] received October 6, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4887. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Chehalis, WA [Docket FAA 2005-21000; Airspace Docket 05-ANM-05] received October 6, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4888. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Norfolk, NE [Docket No. FAA-2005-21872; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-26] received October 6, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4889. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E5 Airspace; Gardner, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2005-21607; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-17] received October 6, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BUYER: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3665. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide adaptive housing assistance to disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member and to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 109-