

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Prevention. When you talk about prevention, you are talking about before. When you are talking about reactionary, we are talking about after.

So dealing with this container thing, I don't want the Members to take it lightly, Mr. Speaker. You may say, well, you know, I am in the middle of America. I live in Sioux City, Iowa, and we don't have ports so I don't need to worry; that is not my issue. Well, it is your issue because those containers that are coming in from overseas and from countries that are in question, some may say suspect as it relates to their commitment to the United States of America, they get on those little trucks and trains that I was talking about a little earlier, and they go right down into your community. And if there is a dirty bomb or some sort of substance that will hurt your community and your family, now it is your problem. And I think it is important that we point that out, because I don't want folks to get confused and say, well, I am not from a coastal area; Members who say, you know, well that is not my issue.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Just like you get your food, just like you get the toys that shipped to the local store that you are going to buy, same thing. Those all come in through the ports.

Now, here is what is interesting, Mr. Speaker. And I think this is something that really makes your ears perk up when you hear about this. On March 28, just a day or so ago, Senators said that a report, this is from Bloomberg News, Senators said a report that investigators smuggled enough radioactive material to build two dirty bombs into the United States called into question the Bush administration's efforts to secure the borders.

Now, check this out. A sting operation that was described in one of three Government Accountability Office reports, now this is the GAO, this is not a partisan deal, said, they released a report. The report accused the Bush administration of being slow to deploy equipment that would detect radioactive materials, and they say corrupt foreign border officials and poor maintenance of detection devices have left the U.S. vulnerable to terror plots.

Enough material for two dirty bombs to go off in the United States was snuck in by, you know, through a sting operation that we were trying to figure out what is going on. We are not doing enough.

Now, third-party validator, which the 30-somethings like to promote. We don't want this to be all our opinion here. This is from a retired Coast Guard commander who is now a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He says: "Both the opportunity for terrorists to target legitimate global supply chains remain plentiful, and the motivation for doing so is only growing. We are living on borrowed time."

We are not here to scare anybody, but the reality is, when you only check

5 percent of the cargo coming into the country, and your own folks are sneaking in enough nuclear material to set off two dirty bombs, and we are giving tax cuts to billionaires and not funding port security, when we are giving \$12 billion in corporate welfare to the oil companies, when we are giving billions in corporate welfare to the health care industry, and we are not funding our national security priorities, when we are spending a billion and a half in Iraq a week, and \$9 billion of it no one can find, and we have these kinds of situations, we have an obligation. When we come here the first part of every second year and we swear our allegiance to the United States and the Constitution and everything else, we have an obligation to oversee what is going on. So we have an obligation to come down here and be critical of things like this and provide solutions, which we have time and time again.

Now, President Bush's Congress has not taken any of our recommendations, and they are up for a job review in November; and I hope that the American people, Mr. Speaker, take a good look at what has happened over the past 4 or 5 years and hope that our plan on real security, which you can find on our Web page, housedemocrats.gov, you can get the whole deal and you can see our comprehensive plan to try to do this.

You can also check out our plan on innovation, how to get the country moving economically again. Periodically, we will have unveilings of different ideas that we have. But we have tried on port security. We have tried on PAYGO. We have tried on school funding and we continue to get shot down by President Bush's Congress. So we have got the plan; we just need the opportunity to implement it. For Members who are in their offices and would like to send us e-mails or anyone else, www.housedemocrats.gov/30something. All the charts that were here that we used will all be on the Web site so you can go back and reference them all.

Yield to my friend.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you, Mr. RYAN. I just want to let you know that it was a pleasure coming down to the floor with you again. We got out a lot of good information.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Before we go, I know you have a Florida team in the Final Four this weekend, and I want to wish you the best of luck.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, we need it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I hope you guys pull it off. Since there is no Ohio team, with a good conscience I can root for Florida.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you. With that we want to thank the Democratic leader. We want to also encourage everyone to go to our Web site, housedemocrats.gov. We want the majority to go on our Web site, housedemocrats.gov.

These are our plans. As it stands right now, in the state of homeland se-

curity is the majority's plan. It is already there, already being carried out. We have a plan to make things better, more secure here in the United States of America, not only here in the House but also in the Senate.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it was an honor addressing the House once again. I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL AIDE OF HON. WILLIAM JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following communication from Joyce G. Davis, Congressional Aide of the Hon. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

JOYCE G. DAVIS,
Congressional Aide.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONGRESSIONAL AIDE OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Loretta Mahony, Congressional Aide of the Hon. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

LORETTA MAHONY,
Congressional Aide.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT MANAGER OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Stephanie Butler, District Manager of the Hon. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

STEPHANIE BUTLER,
District Manager.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Angelle Kwemo, Legislative Assistant of the Hon. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ANGELLE KWEMO,
Legislative Assistant.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONGRESSIONAL AIDE OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Julius Feltus, Congressional Aide of the Hon. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

JULIUS FELTUS,
Congressional Aide.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT MANAGER OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Stephanie Butler, District Manager of the Hon. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 22, 2006.

The Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

STEPHANIE BUTLER,
District Manager.

COMMUNICATION FROM CONGRESSIONAL AIDE OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Ericka Edwards, Congressional Aide of the Hon. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ERICKA EDWARDS,
Congressional Aide.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL TAYLOR

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the career of Major General Michael Taylor. All citizens of the United States owe General Taylor a debt of gratitude for devoting his life to freedom and all the ideals that make this country so great. Not only did he serve his country valiantly for 37 years, but he also attended Texas A&M University, an institution of higher learning famed for its rich tradition, its honor; and it also happens to be my alma matter as well.

General Taylor began his military career in 1970, upon graduation from

Texas A&M. Commissioned as an armor officer, he served as a platoon leader in Vietnam with the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Serving in various roles throughout his career, including deputy commander of the 71st Troop Command, General Taylor assumed command of the 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas in May of 2004.

Of the many major awards and decorations he has received over the course of his accomplished career, time limits me to name just a few. Some of the most notable are a Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal of Valor with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, not for some scratch on him either. He has a Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Achievement Medal.

General Michael Taylor is a man of honor. He is a man with a sense of duty. He is a man with a love for God and his country. He served this country and he served his fellow man with wisdom, with discretion, with courage, with valor, and with clarity. His career of service to our Nation should be admired by every citizen who enjoys living free, and I am proud to honor him on the House floor today as a great American. He is a powerful patriot, and he is a personal friend of mine. He is an example for young people today who desire to be an intellectual servant and a defender of freedom.

May God bless General Mike Taylor because he has certainly blessed America with his service.

OFFICIAL TRUTH SQUAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the conference and leadership for allowing me to come before the House during this hour today and to present a number of different issues with my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

□ 1645

We are going to bring another edition of the Official Truth Squad today. And folks ask, what is the Official Truth Squad? And I guess the simplest way to explain it is that it is a group of individuals in the House of Representatives who are interested in making sure that the American people have the truth presented to them so that they can make appropriate decisions. And it grew out of the group of freshmen Members of Congress who were elected for the first time to Congress in 2004, and after a number of months here, we would meet on a regular basis, met about once a week, and when we would talk to each other, we would get the