

We must prevail while we are there; otherwise, that same sentiment that comes out of Muqtada al-Sadr will be on the lips of every person that is our enemy. They will think that the Americans will lack resolve. And, in fact, we would not have resolve because if any terrorist flare-up came up anywhere else in the world, if we didn't finish the job in Iraq, how do you make the case to go someplace else? How do you make the case to go to Syria?

And what if Iran continues with their nuclear build-up? How would we ever have the resolve to take that away from them, to say to them, Iran, we have decided the date that your nuclear effort will cease, and the only option to you is try to divest yourself of that nuclear capability before that day comes. Oh, and by the way, we aren't telling you what day that is. That is the kind of price that would have to be paid for the next several generations if we don't stay in Iraq and finish this job.

As General Casey said the last time I was over in Iraq, he said the enemy cannot win if the politicians stay in the fight. If the politicians stay in the fight. And yet I hear, especially on the other side of the aisle, let's get out of there, we can't win. These are sometimes the same people that surrendered before we ever got there. And they are trying to get their prophecy fulfilled by encouraging the enemy to attack us. And that encouragement of the enemy is costing American lives, and it is encouraging not only our enemy but it is encouraging the people around them, the countries around them that support al Qaeda and the terrorists within Iraq.

And the people that are doing that support comes out of Syria, it comes out of Iran. And I am starting to come to the conclusion that Iraq can't really be the safe country and the free and prosperous country that it has the potential to be as long as Iran is fomenting terror within the boundaries of Iraq.

But we know the Iraqi people love freedom. They have had a taste of freedom. And when I watched the way they react to me when I go over there, I watch the interest that they show, I am convinced that there is a future for them and they want that free future.

But if we also compare into this the Israeli situation where simultaneously Hamas attacked in Gaza and Hezbollah attacked in the north, now, what could coordinate such an attack like that? Iran. Iran whom I am reported sent tens of millions of dollars to Hamas, because Hamas, the Sunnis, weren't quite tied as tightly with Iran. So a little money helped, and they unleashed their attacks in Gaza and had to face the Israeli defense forces there. And Hezbollah, clearly a surrogate of Iran, began to fire their missiles into Israel.

Look at the violence that is being fomented, the terror that is being pushed out of Iran today, Madam Speaker. That violence that in the Middle East

is there today is rooted in Iran, rooted in Iran that just last month celebrated the centennial year of the formation of their constitution, a short-lived constitution, but a constitution that laid out the parameters for a free people. Iran has a tradition of freedom as well, Madam Speaker, and as old as it is, 100 years old, I believe the date was August 6, 1906, and to commemorate the centennial of that I hope that we move a resolution to acknowledge that date. I hope the Iranian people will be inspired to go back into the streets and grasp their freedom from the despotic rulers that are the ones that are fomenting so much terror and so much hatred, and take the control away from the madman that would continue to develop nuclear weapons and threaten to use them.

We know from historical experience that when tyrants threaten, they generally follow through. And it was the British who learned that when they tried to negotiate in Munich with Hitler. And when they came back with a letter that said we will guarantee peace for the next hundred years, it didn't last very long; it lasted until the 1st day of September 1939 when the Nazis attacked Poland. But Hitler threatened and he followed through.

Ahmadinejad is threatening. He will follow through because he is not afraid of anything. He is not deterred by a threat. He has a view that things are inevitable; and if he can kill enough people, his one religious cleric will come back, the 13th Imam or whatever his name is. And that is a radical approach to it all, but he would drive an entire people into oblivion. And if they get a nuclear weapon and the ability to deliver it, Tel-Aviv will be the first target, and he will threaten the rest of the Middle East and he will keep building missiles that will fire longer and longer until he is threatening Western Europe, and pretty soon he will be threatening the United States, just as that growing capability in North Korea has the potential within a very short time of threatening the United States.

We simply cannot let nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them into the hands of madmen. There is not a rational regime. He doesn't represent the people of Iran. The people of Iran are a modern, moderate society, and they would like their opportunity at freedom. They would like their opportunity at prosperity. And I hope that they reach up and grasp that before it is too late, before annihilation is brought upon Iran by their leader.

And so on this date, this fifth anniversary plus one day of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers, on Pennsylvania, on the Pentagon, I wish, Madam Speaker, to thank and give gratitude to our military men and women who have so selflessly served with great courage, great bravery, great fortitude in a foreign land.

The safety that the American people have been able to enjoy over the last 5 years are to the credit also of our

emergency personnel and our intelligence system that is there and the security that is put in place. There has been a good network, Madam Speaker, and we need to be ever vigilant and ever increasing our network. There are places where we are vulnerable, and we are working to bring that vulnerability under control. But over the last 5 years we have a lot to be thankful for. We are a prosperous Nation. We have recovered from this.

I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

□ 2200

Mr. GINGREY. I realize the time is drawing to a close in this hour, but I wanted to point out, Madam Speaker, to our colleagues, that of course tomorrow on the floor of this House we will have 4 hours of debate on a resolution, a House Resolution, recognizing these men and women that Representative KING just referred to, and I am talking about the first responders.

We all honored them yesterday across this Nation, the 350-something firefighters that lost their lives on 9/11 as they charged into those burning towers. I am sure that none of them thought for a moment about their own safety. They just knew that there were men and women, possibly children in those buildings that needed to be rescued.

So, again, I hope tomorrow we will have a unanimous vote on that resolution, and I look forward to being a part of that.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

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

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to come before the House once again. As you know, the 30-something Working Group works very hard in making sure that we bring issues that are not only facing the American people on the positive and negative end, but we make sure we encourage the Members of the House to do the right thing.

I must say, Madam Speaker, that Mr. DELAHUNT had a birthday the last time we were on the floor, a little over a month ago, and I just had a birthday. I am going to be a part of the something side of the 30-something group, and I am excited about that. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ will be joining the something side pretty soon, and Mr. RYAN will be the true blue 30.

Let me just say that a lot has happened, Mr. DELAHUNT, and I am glad that the Democratic leader, Ms. PELOSI, allowed us to have this hour tonight, and also working with Mr. HOYER, our Democratic whip, and Mr. James Clyburn, our chairman, and Mr. John Larson, the vice chair of our caucus, to come to the floor not only on behalf of Democrats but also on behalf

of the American people. I think it is very, very important in this time, the day after 9/11, 5 years later.

Mr. DELAHUNT, I had the opportunity to go over to New York City. I flew in on the 10th to be there on 9/11. Of course, I wasn't there 5 years ago, but I wanted to be there on the fifth anniversary, and I can tell you that going there and seeing the ceremony, having an opportunity to see the reflection pool where those families were placing their flowers and notes and what have you there, and seeing, as I was going through Manhattan, that at, I believe, 8:46 and a little after 9 a.m. the firefighters standing in front of their fire stations at attention at the time that tower one and tower two went down, and just talking to some of the New Yorkers that were there at that time, great Americans that were there 5 years ago, and listening to their reflecting on what they were doing at the time the towers went down, it takes me back to when it actually took place, Madam Speaker.

At that time, Madam Speaker, this country was in a position to lead the world in the right direction as it relates to the effort against terrorism, when we had the opportunity to ask Americans to do things that they wouldn't ordinarily do but would understand that in coming together as a country just days after that it was a time of unity. It was a time of bipartisanship.

And I know on the steps yesterday that Members came together. I was in New York, Mr. DELAHUNT, and I don't know if you had an opportunity to join in the bipartisan effort here, the singing of God Bless America, and just all coming together, but I couldn't help, as a policymaker, Mr. DELAHUNT, thinking about, as I was asked yesterday by the media what I thought and how I felt. I said, I want it to reflect on the memory of those who lost their lives, those who are survivors of 9/11, whether it be the Pentagon, or Pennsylvania, or New York City, how they feel about the loss of their husband, wife, father, uncle, grandfather, grandmother, or friend. It really wasn't a day for politics. It was a day to reflect on the memory of those individuals.

Now, we are here, the day after, but even the day before, and the year before, and 2 years before the fifth anniversary, 3 years before the fifth anniversary we had a 9/11 Commission that was convened, that Democrats on this floor and over in the Senate pushed for, and some Republicans. Not the Republican leadership, because they didn't feel we needed it at that time. And also the surviving family members, Mr. DELAHUNT. And you were here.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I am sure that yesterday in New York had to be an experience that was poignant and emotional, but I think it is important to set the record straight, because 9/11 was a significant historical event in American history, and I think we have to credit the families of the victims of

9/11 for insisting upon the creation of an independent commission, a commission that was bipartisan, that issued a report that I think clearly most Americans would embrace as accurate and factual.

And it is really unfortunate that the majority of recommendations made by that distinguished group have not been implemented. That is why when we hear a discussion about the war on terror and what kind of action, or let me rephrase that, how we are doing in terms of defeating terrorism, if one looks at the report card subsequently issued by the 9/11 Commission, we note failures and poor grades. And I think it really is unfortunate in light of the spirit you described when the country was united, when in fact the whole world was united in support of the United States.

I am sure you remember the controversies that erupted about a year or 2 afterward between France and the United States. I always note that it was the French paper of record, *Le Monde*, that had as its headline "Today We Are All Americans," and how that support, that political support has dissipated, has gone. Now we have a country, our own country, where there is a legitimate question as to whether we are being successful in advancing our national security interests in terms of terrorism.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. If I can, Mr. DELAHUNT, I am on the Homeland Security Committee, as you know, Oversight Integration Management Subcommittee, which I am serving as the ranking member on, and I am also on the Armed Services Committee. And I wonder, these two national security committees, as I was speaking to some of the family members, and I was speaking to New Yorkers yesterday, as we read the stories and watched television about what actually happened 5 years ago, what has happened since? We owe it to Americans to be able to carry out the security plan that was laid out by the 9/11 Commission.

□ 2210

The 9/11 Commission received the respect of all Americans on a bipartisan basis. If you are a Republican, you have to agree with the 9/11 Commission report. If you are a Democrat, you have to agree. If you are an Independent, if you are an American, you have to agree with the 9/11 Commission report.

But here in Washington, I don't believe we have, and when I say "we," I am not talking about the Democrats in this House because we are solid on this issue. I am talking about the Republican majority. I don't believe the will and the desire is there to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

Here is the bottom line: the 9/11 Commission put forth Ds and Fs for homeland security for this administration and the Republican Congress. If Democratic amendments were adopted, there would be 6,600 more Border Patrol agents. Americans are concerned about

protecting our borders. There would be 4,000 more detention beds, 270 more immigration enforcement agents along the borders that would exist today, not in fiction or theory, today, if Democratic amendments were adopted.

Only 6 percent of the containers right now, and nuclear weapons can be in these containers in a port. Some may say that is a coastal issue where we have seaports. No, those containers are loaded onto trucks and trains and moved into the heartland of America. They could go off. This is something that has been identified by the 9/11 Commission.

If Democrats had the opportunity to be able to have an amendment on the floor or a bill on the floor or a bill in committee, that would pass by majority, and when I say majority, the Republican majority would allow to pass, America would be safer now because we are calling for full implementation of 9/11 Commission recommendations, 100 percent container screening prior to the containers going across and throughout America.

I think it is very, very important to let it be known that we owe that to the first responders. We owe that to Americans to protect them. We don't need to wait until a container blows up in a major port to say we should have full screening. If other countries can do it, we can do it with the right will and desire.

I was here earlier and heard majority Members talking about we are for security, we are for tracking down Osama bin Laden. We are for going after the terrorists.

Well, the majority has been in the majority for 12 years. Now all of a sudden the majority has religion saying we are going to track down these terrorists. The Democrats can't do it, but we can do it.

If somebody had a job in your office, Mr. DELAHUNT, and they said I know you want me to respond to your constituents. I haven't been able to respond to them in the way you want me to. I know you want me to get 10 letters out in a day, but I have only got one letter out over a day the last 12 years. But if you let me stay in your office 2 more years, I guarantee you I will get those 10 letters out.

Now, anyone who is a manager and knows that folks have to be served knows you can't live with that. As a matter of fact, a staffer would never have made it to 12 years in your office if they only put out one constituent response a day. They would have to perform.

Well, what the Republican majority is doing is coming to the floor and saying we can do this. The Democrats can't do it. As a matter of fact, double digits year ago, here is an instance where the Democrats didn't do it. We are ready to do it.

Mr. DELAHUNT, as I yield to you, I am saying it is almost laughable. If it was not national security, it would be

laughable. I am hoping that the American people, and I hope that the members of the majority caucus don't go to bed thinking that because they were not able to get it right for the last 12 years that year 13 and 14 they are going to get it right. We can't afford to wait. That is the reason why the American people poll after poll after poll are saying we are willing to allow the Democrats to lead this Congress.

Madam Speaker, you are going to hear many Members on the majority side that are going to come here and make statements that they know are not true. They are going to try to find something in 1980 where there was some fumble in government and say see what the Democrats did in 1950-something. They cannot say in the 1990s because they were in control. They can't say in 2000 because they have been in control. They can't say any of those things because all of these fumbles and follies and mistakes occurred on their watch with a lack of oversight.

I am glad we are here to set the record straight.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If the gentleman would yield for a minute, and I know that Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ will engage, but, you know, what the administration has attempted to do is to confuse the war on terror with the war in Iraq. They are totally different.

I think it is very important to note that almost unanimously this House voted to support military action against the Taliban government that existed in 2001 and 2002 in Afghanistan because they allowed Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda group to train. And they provided Osama bin Laden and the al Qaeda group to utilize their territory as a safe haven for attacks against the United States of America on September 11. That is irrefutable.

And where are we today in terms of Afghanistan? Let me tell you where we are today. If you just bear with me for a moment, the Taliban is resurging. Just today, September 12, a letter was circulated by the chairman of the House International Relations Committee, a senior Member of this House, the well-respected gentleman from Illinois, HENRY HYDE. This is a letter that he and another colleague, a Republican, MARK KIRK, also of Illinois, sent to the President:

"United States efforts in Afghanistan are failing." I'm quoting from that letter: "Drug money continues to finance terrorism. That failure, coupled with the aggressive efforts of the terrorists, threaten to destroy Afghanistan's nascent democracy, a free government that Americans and coalition forces have died to support. To succeed in Afghanistan, we need to change our failing strategies."

Let me submit this as exhibit A in terms of the realities on the ground in Afghanistan where, back before 9/11, al Qaeda trained and was provided a safe haven by the Taliban government that we defeated. It would appear that we

only defeated them temporarily because now they are back and we have a British general, Brigadier General Brooks, the head of the NATO contingent there, saying send help quickly or we will lose the moment.

This is being reported today, 5 years after 9/11. The threat of terrorism is greater today than it was on 9/11 and before 9/11, and we left Afghanistan because it was an obsession on the part of this administration to attack Iraq, and we have been mired in Iraq since the invasion in 2003.

And do you know what we have achieved in Iraq, Mr. MEEK? Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ? I think a picture says more than I can say. Let me put this poster so you can both see it with your eyes.

Mr. MEEK, do you recognize this gentleman?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Yes, I do, Mr. DELAHUNT.

□ 2220

Mr. DELAHUNT. Would you tell me who he is?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The President of Iran.

Mr. DELAHUNT. The President of Iran.

Do you know who the gentleman is next the too him?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That is the Prime Minister of Iraq.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Do you know when this picture was taken? This picture was taken today, today. So with the loss of almost 2,700 American military personnel, Madam Speaker, in the expenditure of hundreds of billions of dollars, what is the reality in the region today?

There is the reality in the Middle East today. Take a good look. The Prime Minister of Iraq and the Prime Minister of Iran with their hands firmly grasping each other. Need we say anything more?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. DELAHUNT, let me ask you a question. This is the 30-Something Working Group, and I can tell you that when our generation was going through high school, and, really, even college, was that a picture that you would ever have seen? My recollection is that Iran and Iraq were bitter enemies and were locked in a lengthy, deadly war for many, many years.

So are you saying that what the Bush administration's policies in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and towards Iran, that that handshake is the result of those policies that the Bush administration's actions in the Middle East have done more to bring Iran and Iraq together than any of the actors in the Middle East could ever have done?

Mr. DELAHUNT. What I am suggesting is the greatest beneficiary of the military invasion of Iraq by the United States is the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Madam Speaker, you must remember, of course, when the President of the United States in his State of the

Union address came to this floor and said there is an axis of evil club out there, and it is Iraq, Iran and North Korea.

Well, you know what? I hope the American people take a good look at this picture.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. If we can focus on this picture here, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, you raised a very good question, because when Mr. RYAN and I went to Iraq, we went through the whole Saddam Hussein parade area where they have the podium, usually he would have the gun, and the troops would be marching which, and they will be, you know, whatever, little missile that they may have, will parade on along.

But as you go into that parade route, the helmets of Iranian soldiers that were killed by Iraqi soldiers, are embedded into the ground of that parade route so that they can step on the helmets, which, in the Middle East, is disrespect when you take the bottom of your shoe, and, you know, like, slap it or hit a picture or image of someone. That's the kind of hatred that these two countries have for one another.

Let me also say, which is also important, that Iraq and Iran, it is interesting that Iran, a lot of the insurgents, are coming across from Iraq and Syria and other countries into Iraq. That has never happened before prior to the U.S. invasion. There are a number of other things that are false, but I would go back even further.

I am no longer, as a Member of Congress, concerned about what happens in the White House as it relates to the President's decisions. I am concerned, as what is not happening here in this Chamber, and what is not happening in the other Chamber, as it relates to the oversight in the war on Iraq.

I am very concerned about that because in our Constitution, could someone just bring the Constitution in. I want to hold it up for a moment so we are reminded it is not just a rough draft, it is something that people died for and defended in this country the Constitution calls for three plans of government. When someone tramples a U.S. code or Constitution, it is the Supreme Court that is supposed to stand up on their behalf.

When we have a White House that is willing to do anything they have, and you have a rubber stamp Congress, I missed my rubber stamp during the break, a rubber stamp Congress that is rubber stamping everything this administration does, that is what you get.

You get those kinds of pictures, you get Members of the majority side coming to the floor saying things they know are not true, with all due respect. I don't mean to say this. The American people know the facts are here, they pick up the paper, they watch the news. I just wanted to say that conflict that you pointed out saying how did this happen.

I mean, that is worse than a family feud. This goes back for years and

years and years. Now, I have my Constitution here. The bottom line is, we need to follow this. People need to vote for the Constitution. You need to vote for what we said we wanted in this country, what we stand for and people have died for. We need to make sure that we bring balance back.

Mr. DELAHUNT. The people in this country need to vote for a Congress that will ask those questions. How did we get him? How did we arrive here?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Let me tell you, at least it didn't take me long to break the code, because my whole formative life, the formative years of my life, that picture would never have occurred. Every day in the news you heard about the death toll and how these two countries were locked in the heat of battle.

Remember, Saddam Hussein was Sunni, and the leadership of Iran was Shiite. It could have been hundreds, if not thousands of years of religious conflict.

You know the expression, I am reminded of the expression, which isn't a nice expression but I have certainly heard it used, the friend of my enemy is my enemy. Well, that picture is the result of the enemy of my enemy is my friend. That is what that picture is right there.

Of course, the leadership of Iraq now is Shiite. So we have actually destabilized, and I am not just saying this as DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ's opinion, the middle eastern experts on terrorism and on middle eastern history have actually said that what we did hear, what the Bush administration's policies resulted in, is a destabilization. Because previously you had a balance of power with Sunnis in charge in Iraq, Shiites in charge in Iran, essentially to oversimplify it, and now you have almost complete domination by Shiites.

So you are having a region that is descending into civil war, I mean, they are there. We don't really have to wring our hands too much moreover whether or not they are in the middle of a civil war and we are immersed in the middle of their civil war.

Mr. DELAHUNT. What is very interesting is that you talk about civil war. There was a story recently, and I had it with me, that described interviews with American soldiers on the ground, not generals, back in headquarters, and testifying before House and Senate committees, but the troops on the ground, and I will find the quote, because there were several of them, that said, there is a civil war going on and we are in the middle of it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. So, there is no question.

Mr. DELAHUNT. But, if I may, if I may, this picture, it explains it so well, and it explains the report, for example, from a highly respected British think tank.

□ 2230

If I just might take a few seconds just to read certain extracts: "The

Royal Institute of International Affairs concludes that Iran, despite being a part of U.S. President Bush's Axis of Evil, has been the chief beneficiary of the war on terror in the Middle East. Of particular note is Iran's influence in Iraq. Chatham House argues that the greatest problem," listen to this carefully, please, my friends, "the greatest problem facing the U.S. is that Iran has superseded it," meaning the United States, "as the most influential power in Iraq."

Their conclusion is that "in today's Iraq, Iran has more influence than the United States. This influence has a variety of forms, but all can be turned against the U.S. presence in Iraq with relative ease and it almost certainly would heighten U.S. casualties to the point where a continued presence might not be tenable."

This is where we find ourselves today because of the misguided policies and the obsession with war in Iraq that was embraced by this administration, by the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of Defense.

And today, today, what happened in the conversation between the President of Iran and the Prime Minister of Iraq? Well, here is what happened. This is the news report that goes with this photograph: "Iran offered on Tuesday to help establish security and stability in Iraq after Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki held talks in Tehran on his first official visit. 'We will give our full assistance to the Iraqi government to establish security in Iraq. Strengthening security in Iraq means strengthening security and stability in the region,' Ahmadinejad told a joint news conference after their meeting. The two sides signed an agreement covering these areas.

"The Prime Minister of Iraq had this to say: 'This visit will be useful for cooperation between Iran and Iraq in all political, economic, and,'" listen carefully my friends, "security fields.

"Tomorrow Mr. Maliki meets with the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, the highest authority in Iran, and influential former President Rafsanjani on Wednesday."

What we see here I would suggest is a new relationship, let's call it an alliance, between Iran and Iraq. Remember, these two countries have signed a military cooperation agreement between themselves. Iranians are building a pipeline from Basra to Iran.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. If the gentleman will yield, because you talk about the obsession that the Bush administration has engaged in with this war in Iraq, and Iraq generally has been this President's obsession, and what that has resulted in is a total absence of attention and focus on homeland security here.

If our good friends on the other side of the aisle, Mr. MEEK, want to make this election a referendum, a local referendum on the individual Members of Congress standing for reelection on their side of the aisle, we will give

them a referendum, because on every measure in terms of who is committed to securing our borders and making sure that our homeland is secure, it is us as Democrats that have proposed solutions and the Republicans that have rejected them.

Let's just walk through this. I have some graphics that will walk through where we are with the Republicans' leadership on homeland security and where we would take us, and Mr. MEEK I know has some interesting things to highlight as well as far as the opinion leaders in this country on both sides of the aisle.

Yesterday, let me just share with you, yesterday we were home in our districts and had an opportunity and a privilege to commemorate the tragedy that was 9/11 from the 5-year anniversary, and learned some very disturbing things.

The question that was perpetually asked, Mr. MEEK and Mr. DELAHUNT, I am sure you were asked the same question, all that anyone wanted to know all day yesterday was, Debbie, are we really safer? After all, that has been talked about and funded, supposedly. Are we safer?

The answer, really, was depending on who you asked. According to the sheriff of Broward County, Ken Jenne, our sheriff in our community, we are safer in some ways. But the only reason we are safer in my community in south Florida and Mr. MEEKS's community is because our local government, not our Federal funding, our local government has stepped up and cooperated.

Mr. MEEK, do you know that Sheriff Jenne told us at the HAZMAT demonstration that we had at the fire station in Weston that only 15 percent of their homeland security funding comes from the Federal Government, comes from us? 15 percent. And the equipment that they have, the gaps that they have exist because we don't give them what they need.

They actually have to take out equipment and personnel to train for on this hazardous material equipment. When they do that, they have to take an entire battalion out of commission and they don't have the personnel that are there to do the regular, everyday emergency response. And what has the Bush administration done and our Republican rubber-stamping friends done? Eliminate the SAFER Program, which funds career firefighter slots and volunteer firefighter slots, so that we can make sure that we have those personnel online and so that we can have the homeland security training that is necessary. Because you can't just take a firefighter without their ladder, without their equipment. They have to actually use the equipment to train on.

So today our borders remain porous. Not everything has been done to prevent another attack. America is not prepared to respond to another attack, particularly if it comes at our ports, at our train stations, at so many of the places that we just essentially have

thrown up our hands, at least on the Republican side of the aisle, and said, you know, we are fighting the war in Iraq, and we have to take the war to the terrorists. Every expert agrees that the war on terrorism is not in Iraq.

But let's look at where we are right now and where we would take us. Right now, less than 6 percent of U.S. cargo is physically inspected; 95 percent is not inspected. That is when we are talking about the cargo that comes through our seaports and the cargo that goes in the belly of airplanes. So that is problem number one.

Let's look at how this Republican Congress has shortchanged port security by more than \$6 billion. If you look at what the Coast Guard estimate was to implement the Maritime Transportation Security Act, which we adopted after 9/11, they said they needed over \$7 billion. Our actual congressional appropriations has been \$900 million. That is a huge, huge disparity. There is no way that those gaps have been filled. That means that we are still extremely vulnerable.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Can I just suggest, just on those two items alone, I would submit that that is disgraceful.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is disgraceful.

Mr. DELAHUNT. That is the only adjective that comes to mind.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. They have the nerve to stand on this floor and say that they would be better on national security and they would keep Americans safer and that is why they would deserve to be returned to office? Give me a break.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The Republican majority, that is "they."

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. They claim they would be better, the Republican majority, than we would be on national security.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We got "they" from Mr. Gingrich, because that is what he is calling the Republican majority now, "they."

□ 2240

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you for helping me clarify that definition. "They" is the Republican majority, who controls everything here and has the ability to do any of this at a moment's notice but instead has actually rejected our proposals to tighten homeland security and fund homeland security. We have been fighting for port security while Republicans have been voting against it.

Here are the date-by-date instances in which we have proposed additional funding for port security and, unanimously, the Republicans have rejected it on a party-line vote, time after time: September 17, 2003; June 9, 2004. You could keep going. June 18, 2004; October 7, 2004. These are all instances. September 29, 2005; March 2, 2006. All of these going down on party-line votes. And there are others. I mean, look, I had to use three boards just to show you just a handful of the times that we

have proposed enhanced port security and border security and they rejected it, "they" being the Republicans as defined by the dictionary written by Newt Gingrich.

Now, let us look at border security, Mr. DELAHUNT. They claim to be the ones that are tough on border security, that they want immigration reform that is going to secure our borders first. Let us take a walk down memory lane where the Democratic administration under President Clinton was in terms of securing our borders and being committed to that versus the Bush administration. Let us look at the average number of new Border Patrol agents added per year. We passed a bill out of here that would make felons of all 11 million illegal immigrants here, and supposedly they would, I guess, deport themselves at that point, and they talk about how important it is for us to add border security agents. Well, that is really nice, except that the little problem is that the facts get in the way when it comes to who is committed to doing that.

Mr. DELAHUNT. But they are really tough on the borders.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. They are so tough on the border, Mr. DELAHUNT.

Mr. DELAHUNT. They talk tough.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. They talk tough but action is absent. When President Clinton was in office, the average number of new Border Patrol agents added every year was 642. And from 2001 to 2005, the Bush administration added 411, aided by the Republican Congress.

Mr. DELAHUNT. About a third less; is that fair?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. About a third less than was added under the Clinton Democratic administration. How about INS, which is now called CIS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service fines for immigration enforcement, meaning that they would go out and actually fine employers for hiring illegal immigrants and pursuing the hiring of illegal immigrants. Under the Clinton administration in 1999, there were 417 employers fined for immigration violations.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If I could ask a question because I just find this stunning. How many enforcement actions against employers were brought in the year 2000 by the Bush administration?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. In 2000, after 417 being brought in 1999, there were only three.

Mr. DELAHUNT. My math might not be good but that is less than 1 percent.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Three.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Less than 1 percent. And this is the crowd, this is the crowd that is talking about border enforcement. We have to enforce our borders. But the truth is that there is a lot of talk, a lot of rhetoric, a lot of hot air, and when it comes down to doing it, Democrats have stood tall and have been willing to put the resources into doing exactly that.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You are absolutely right. And we are not done there. I am going to go on and then bring it in for a landing, and yield to either Mr. RYAN or Mr. MEEK. But 78 percent fewer completed immigration fraud cases. When you are investigating immigration fraud as to whether or not someone belongs here, whether they have actually legally applied for residency, permanent or otherwise, for a green card, the number of cases that were pursued that were fraud cases in 1995, and, Mr. RYAN, who was President in 1995?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Bill Clinton.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And was Bill Clinton a Republican or a Democrat?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Democrat.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Okay. Well, that is what I thought. How about in 2003? In 2003, after 6,455 immigration fraud cases were pursued under the Clinton Democratic administration, 1,389 in 2003 were pursued.

And, Mr. RYAN, who was President in 2003?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. George Bush, the second.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Is he a Republican or a Democrat?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Republican.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Okay. So now we can see, very graphically and specifically and factually, who is for enhancing our borders and protecting our homeland security and who just talks about it.

So, Mr. MEEK, what we would do is we have a real security agenda, a real security agenda that we have proposed in the mandatory process that has been rejected by our Republican colleagues and that we will implement once we control the Congress after November 7. Here are some of the things that we would do: We would provide first responders with the equipment and the training that they need and the resources that they need to respond to a terrorist attack, and we would not have to hear when we go home from our local first responders that they have to choose between training and general, normal emergency response. I mean this is our real security agenda right here. It is available on our Web site. Anyone can access it. It also will be available in Spanish. Actually, it is available in Spanish, as we speak.

In addition to that, we would push for stronger transportation and critical infrastructure that is required for security planning and support. We have got to have our security personnel able to move around and be able to actually get to the places that security needs to be enhanced. We would secure the border for real. We would fund it. We would put the Border Patrol agents on the border. We wouldn't need to call out the National Guard to provide additional border security because we would actually pay for it because we have our priorities straight. We would work to strengthen the intelligence community and its ability to share information.

Mr. MEEK, what blew my mind, and you are the ranking member on the Oversight Subcommittee of the Committee on Homeland Security; so you know this better than anyone, we do not have that interoperability communication. We still do not have the ability of all first responders to talk to each other. That is something else I learned yesterday. We would make sure that happens. That was a 9/11 recommendation, one of the Ds and Fs that the Republicans were given for not implementing the 9/11 recommendations. We would make sure that the war on terror was fought where it belongs. And there are many more ways in which we would implement a real security agenda.

And, Mr. RYAN, we are glad you are here and welcome back to you as well.

Mr. DELAHUNT. We are glad you made it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It is good to be back. There are several things that I want to touch upon after hearing some of the comments that have been made.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, you may want to suspend for a minute. You may want to switch. I do not think that you have what you need to have.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think I am taken care of. The crack staff here at the 30-Something Working Group. I thought maybe you missed my being over in the other part of the well, and this made me nervous because I know how you like things the way you like them. Very habitual.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, we are showing you a level of respect here today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I think it is important that we focus on what Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ said and what has been said by several of my colleagues here, Mr. DELAHUNT and the gentleman from Florida, and after watching the weekend shows and going through the pain and angst of trying to decipher reality from fiction, I think it is important that we do not get to a point in this country where, because there has not been a terrorist attack in the past few years, that somehow that makes everything okay. We are combating an enemy here that their ability to wait and then strike is staggering. They are patient people. The last terrorist strike prior to September 11, 2001, was in 1993, 8 years prior. So to say we are doing everything right, as was stated on one of the weekend shows by a major member of this administration, I think does not show the kind of responsibility and the kind of urgency that I think Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ pointed out. With border security, we do not know who is coming over the borders. They may be coming through Mexico, but it does not mean they are Mexicans, which has been an ally of ours. You do not know who is coming through. So I think it is foolhardy to say that.

And then I want to almost in our private meetings make a motion to make the former Speaker Newt Gingrich an

honorary member of the 30-Something Group because of the kind of analysis that he continues to provide us and what we are in agreement on.

□ 2250

Now, let's look at what the former Speaker has said about staying the course. And this isn't just Iraq; I think this is also dealing with homeland security. The former Speaker says in the Wall Street Journal on September 7.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If the gentleman would yield for just a moment.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I think we have got to underscore that the former Speaker was the leader when he served here of the Republican Party.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. He was the man who set the basic principles of what the Republican revolution was going to look like.

So on September 7, 2006, in the Wall Street Journal, he says: "Just consider the following: Osama bin Laden is still at large, Afghanistan is still insecure, Iraq is still violent, North Korea and Iran are still building nuclear weapons and missiles, terrorist recruiting is still occurring in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, and across the planet."

Is that the kind of leadership we want in the United States of America to secure our country? I don't think so. Given that foreign policy and domestically, given what Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ has said about our borders and our homeland security and our ports, that is not the kind of leadership we need.

And the final point I would like to make before I yield to my friend from Florida is that we have tended to take the long view. I think we have made some difficult decisions, our party, in the last 10 or 15 years that have been difficult, balancing the budget in 1993, leading the lower interest rates, creating 20 million new jobs, welfare reform. All of those things were very difficult decisions politically, but over the long haul history is judging them to be good decisions on behalf of the country. And to look and see what Secretary Rumsfeld said when he kept getting questioned about what we were going to do in post-war Iraq, Madam Speaker, I think says it all. And this is from a story in The Washington Post on Saturday, Madam Speaker.

It says: "Long before the United States invaded Iraq in 2003, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld forbade military strategists to develop plans for securing a post-war Iraq, the retiring commander of the Army Transportation Corps said. Brigadier General Mark Scheid told the Newport News Daily Press in an interview published yesterday that Rumsfeld had said "he would fire the next person," who talked about the need for a post-war plan.

He would fire the next person that brought it up, Madam Speaker. This isn't saying, I don't want to hear the

other side. This isn't saying, we aren't talking about that yet. This isn't saying, we are having a meeting about something else right now, maybe we will bring that up later. Or, we are having a meeting about that tomorrow. The Secretary was saying he would fire the next person who even brought up designing a post-war Iraq plan.

Now, that is the kind of leadership we are getting. And I think in September of 2006 as we see where this country is, where former Speaker Gingrich is saying where the country is and all the lack of successes that we have had, to see the kind of leadership coming out of the Pentagon and the Secretary saying we will fire you if you even bring it up one more time about a post-war plan in Iraq, I think speaks volumes about what is going on.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I have reviewed that particular interview with General Scheid. He goes on to say: "Just as we were getting into Afghanistan, Rumsfeld came and told us to get ready for Iraq." Scheid remembers thinking, My gosh, we're in the middle of Afghanistan. How can we possibly be doing two at one time? How could we pull this off? It's just going to be too much. The Secretary of Defense continued to push us that everything we write in our plan has to be with the idea that we're going to go in, we're going to take out the regime, and then we're going to leave.

You know, to think that the President has not demanded from the Secretary of Defense his resignation I think is a statement of arrogance, a statement that the American people are being insulted. And I hear this frequently: If this were done in the private sector, how long would the head or a CEO of an agency the size of the Department of Defense be allowed to continue? I mean, we all know that answer. That is a rhetorical question.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. DELAHUNT, I have got to tell you, over August break I had numerous conversations with business folks, Republicans, card-carrying, who would talk to me about the fact that if they were running the business and Rumsfeld was their assistant or vice whatever, he wouldn't be around. He would have been gone years ago.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And yet on Sunday, on Sunday we have the Vice President of the United States being interviewed by Tim Russert, and this is what he has to say. Talk about an incapacity to embrace reality and to be honest with the American people. Knowing all that he knows, in retrospect, he concludes that the war in Iraq was the right thing to do; and if we had to do it over again, we would do exactly the same. Russert poses the question: Exactly the same thing? "Yes, sir."

I mean, we're refereeing a civil war. Reports are coming out of the Pentagon that western Iraq, we are about to lose western Iraq. This is the intelligence that is provided by a highly respected Marine colonel, and yet this

crowd, these men have the hubris to stand before the American people and say that they would do the same thing again despite what we have learned, despite reports from the Senate Intelligence Committee that unequivocally say that they were wrong when they talked about al Qaeda and links with Saddam Hussein. And even as recently as August 21, the President infers that there was a relationship between Saddam Hussein and Zarqawi. And the Senate Intelligence Committee in a bipartisan way says that is not the case. Do they think that we are stupid?

But the tragedy is that our colleagues on the other side in the Republican majority refuse to ask those questions, refuse to insist that they come before the congressional committees and answer to these charges made by military personnel, by colonels, by generals, by boots on the ground that have been there and fought there for their country. That is arrogance.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. DELAHUNT, can we yield to Mr. RYAN to give the Web site information.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. 30-Something Working Group
www.housedemocrats.gov/30-something, housedemocrats.gov/30-something. And all the charts that you have seen tonight, Madam Speaker, are available on the Web site. I yield back to my good friend from Florida (Mr. MEEK).

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD the Wall Street Journal article previously referred to:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 7, 2006]

BUSH AND LINCOLN
(By Newt Gingrich)

WASHINGTON.—Five years have passed since the horrific attack on our American homeland, and, still, there is one serious, undeniable fact we have yet to confront: We are, today, not where we wanted to be and nowhere near where we need to be.

In April of 1861, in response to the firing on Fort Sumter, President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to serve for 90 days. Lincoln had greatly underestimated the challenge of preserving the Union. No one imagined that what would become the Civil War would last four years and take the lives 620,000 Americans.

By the summer of 1862, with thousands of Americans already dead or wounded and the hopes of a quick resolution to the war all but abandoned, three political factions had emerged. There were those who thought the war was too hard and would have accepted defeat by negotiating the end of the United States by allowing the South to secede. Second were those who urged staying the course by muddling through with a cautious military policy and a desire to be “moderate and reasonable” about Southern property rights, including slavery.

We see these first two factions today. The Kerry-Gore-Pelosi-Lamont bloc declares the war too hard, the world too dangerous. They try to find some explainable way to avoid reality while advocating return to “normalcy,” and promoting a policy of weakness and withdrawal abroad.

Most government officials constitute the second wing, which argues the system is doing the best it can and that we have to “stay the course”—no matter how unproduc-

tive. But, after being exposed in the failed response to Hurricane Katrina, it will become increasingly difficult for this wing to keep explaining the continuing failures of the system.

Just consider the following: Osama bin Laden is still at large. Afghanistan is still insecure. Iraq is still violent. North Korea and Iran are still building nuclear weapons and missiles. Terrorist recruiting is still occurring in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain and across the planet.

By late summer, 1862, Lincoln agonizingly concluded that a third faction had the right strategy for victory. This group’s strategy demanded reorganizing everything as needed, intensifying the war, and bringing the full might of the industrial North to bear until the war was won.

The first and greatest lesson of the last five years parallels what Lincoln came to understand. The dangers are greater, the enemy is more determined, and victory will be substantially harder than we had expected in the early days after the initial attack. Despite how painful it would prove to be, Lincoln chose the road to victory. President Bush today finds himself in precisely the same dilemma Lincoln faced 144 years ago. With American survival at stake, he also must choose. His strategies are not wrong, but they are failing. And they are failing for three reasons.

(1) They do not define the scale of the emerging World War III, between the West and the forces of militant Islam, and so they do not outline how difficult the challenge is and how big the effort will have to be. (2) They do not define victory in this larger war as our goal, and so the energy, resources and intensity needed to win cannot be mobilized. (3) They do not establish clear metrics of achievement and then replace leaders, bureaucrats and bureaucracies as needed to achieve those goals.

To be sure, Mr. Bush understands that we cannot ignore our enemies; they are real. He knows that an enemy who believes in religiously sanctioned suicide-bombing is an enemy who, with a nuclear or biological weapon, is a mortal threat to our survival as a free country. The analysis Mr. Bush offers the nation—before the Joint Session on Sept. 20, 2001, in his 2002 State of the Union, in his 2005 Second Inaugural—is consistently correct. On each occasion, he outlines the threat, the moral nature of the conflict and the absolute requirement for victory.

Unfortunately, the great bureaucracies Mr. Bush presides over (but does not run) have either not read his speeches or do not believe in his analysis. The result has been a national security performance gap that we must confront if we are to succeed in winning this rising World War III.

We have to be honest about how big this problem is and then design new, bolder and more profound strategies to secure American national security in a very dangerous 21st century. Unless we, like Lincoln, think anew, we cannot set the nation on a course for victory. Here are some initial steps:

First, the president should address a Joint Session of Congress to explain to the country the urgency of the threat of losing millions of people in one or more cities if our enemies find a way to deliver weapons of mass murder to American soil. He should further communicate the scale of the anti-American coalition, the clarity of their desire to destroy America, and the requirement that we defeat them. He should then make clear to the world that a determined American people whose very civilization is at stake will undertake the measures needed to prevail over our enemies. While desiring the widest possible support, we will not compromise our self-defense in order to please our critics.

Then he should announce an aggressively honest review of what has not worked in the first five years of the war. Based upon the findings he should initiate a sweeping transformation of the White House’s national security apparatus. The current hopelessly slow and inefficient interagency system should be replaced by a new metrics-based and ruthlessly disciplined integrated system of accountability, with clear timetables and clear responsibilities.

The president should insist upon creating new aggressive entrepreneurial national security systems that replace (rather than reform) the current failing bureaucracies. For example, the Agency for International Development has been a disaster in both Afghanistan and Iraq. The president should issue new regulations where possible and propose new legislation where necessary. The old systems cannot be allowed to continue to fail without consequence. Those within the bureaucracies who cannot follow the president’s directives should be compelled to leave.

Following this initiative, the president should propose a dramatic and deep overhaul of homeland security grounded in metrics-based performance to create a system capable of meeting the seriousness of the threat. The leaders of the new national security and homeland security organizations should be asked what they need to win this emerging World War III, and then the budget should be developed. We need a war budget, but we currently have an OMB-driven, pseudo-war budget. The goal of victory, ultimately, will lead to a dramatically larger budget, which will lead to a serious national debate. We can win this argument, but we first have to make it.

Congress should immediately pass the legislation sent by the president yesterday to meet the requirements of the Supreme Court’s Hamdan decision. More broadly, it should pass an act that recognizes that we are entering World War III and serves notice that the U.S. will use all its resources to defeat our enemies—not accommodate, understand or negotiate with them, but defeat them.

Because the threat of losing millions of Americans is real, Congress should hold blunt, no-holds-barred oversight hearings on what is and is not working. Laws should be changed to shift from bureaucratic to entrepreneurial implementation throughout the national security and homeland security elements of government.

Beyond our shores, we must commit to defeating the enemies of freedom in Iraq, starting with doubling the size of the Iraqi military and police forces. We should put Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia on notice that any help going to the enemies of the Iraqi people will be considered hostile acts by the U.S. In southern Lebanon, the U.S. should insist on disarming Hezbollah, emphasizing it as the first direct defeat of Syria and Iran—thus restoring American prestige in the region while undermining the influence of the Syrian and Iranian dictatorships.

Further, we should make clear our goal of replacing the repressive dictatorships in North Korea, Iran and Syria, whose aim is to do great harm to the American people and our allies. Our first steps should be the kind of sustained aggressive strategy of replacement which Ronald Reagan directed brilliantly in Poland, and ultimately led to the collapse of the Soviet empire.

The result of this effort would be borders that are controlled, ports that are secure and an enemy that understands the cost of going up against the full might of the U.S. No enemy can stand against a determined American people. But first we must commit to victory. These steps are the first on a long

and difficult road to victory, but are necessary to win the future.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. And, Mr. DELAHUNT, as we close here, I believe Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ is going to claim that next hour so we will continue. Democrats, we call for the redeployment, a number of Members and some Republicans, redeployment of U.S. troops. Due to the fact that Mr. RYAN talked so eloquently about section 1, Article I of the Constitution that says we have legislative powers, but it seems the Republican majority forgets about that. Thus far, the new Pentagon report shows that the situation is worse in Iraq. Every day we go now, the attacks are up to 700 attacks per week, 792 attacks. We also have U.S. troops and taxpayers continuing to pay a high price for the war in Iraq. We are approaching 2,700 U.S. troops dead, 20,000 wounded, and the U.S. taxpayers are paying more than \$300 billion on the war in Iraq alone.

That picture next to you, Mr. DELAHUNT, is very revealing, these two quote/unquote leaders are embracing that the U.S. has questions with.

□ 2300

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to join my 30-Something colleagues for this next hour to talk about the new direction for America that Democrats want to take this country in, and what we would implement were we to have the opportunity to take the majority after November 7 of this year.

We have been talking about the Republican leadership's security failures and the fact that while they talk real nice about how they are committed to homeland security and improving our security measures nationally, that is all it appears to be amounting to, is talk.

Let us walk through, my colleagues, what the reality is in terms of where Republicans have taken us on security. Let us look at the Iraq war. Right now, under the Bush administration's policy of "stay the course," our Republican colleagues have essentially been continuing to be a rubber stamp for a "stay the course" policy, even though that has strained our military, cost nearly 2,700 United States lives, and diverted attention and resources away from the real war on terror.

There has been article after article, Madam Speaker, that has come out that has clearly indicated, and the American people know this, that the war on terror is not going on in Iraq. It is going on in pockets throughout the world where, if we actually devoted our resources and our intelligence capabilities to the true war on terror and

shored up our borders and made sure they were not as porous as they are, then we would be able to feel more secure and I wouldn't get questions like I got yesterday all day when I participated in 9/11 commemoration events: Are we really safer?

People are really concerned. They are concerned in their hearts, Mr. DELAHUNT. They want to feel safer. They want the answer to that question to be yes, but they know that the answer is not yes. Our friends on the other side of the aisle are rolling out the same tired baloney, Mr. RYAN, about how they are going to be the ones that can be counted on for homeland security and protecting Americans in this hour of strife. Well, that is not the reality when we look at the facts.

Look at the Iraq war. We could not be in worse shape. Look at the war on terrorism and there isn't anyone that could examine the war on terrorism and say that we are winning right now; that we have been successful in our fight. We have not captured or killed Osama bin Laden. Terror groups and the number of global terror attacks are on the rise. Five years after 9/11 we have still failed to capture or kill bin Laden. And in a survey of America's top national security experts, 84 percent of them said that America is not winning the war on terror.

What we are calling for, Mr. DELAHUNT, is to finish the job in Afghanistan, which we should never have abandoned in the first place. The Taliban insurgency is on the rise. It is getting worse and worse there. Mr. DELAHUNT reviewed that in the last hour. Democrats would double the size of our special forces, increase our human intelligence capabilities, secure all loose nuclear materials by 2010, and implement our real security agenda, which those are all components of.

When it comes to homeland security, we would implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, unlike the Bush administration and this Republican Congress who have gotten D and F grades by the 9/11 Commission. We would implement their recommendations and fund them.

This is a really interesting fact, Mr. MEEK. If Democratic amendments, like that which we detailed in the last hour had been adopted, there would actually be 6,600 more Border Patrol agents, 14,000 more detention beds, and 2,700 more immigration enforcement agents along our borders than now exists.

We only check 6 percent of the containers that come through our ports. Most air cargo that goes in the belly of our passenger airplanes is still not being screened, and there is still not a unified terror watch list for screening airline passengers. What we are doing is having people remove their shoes before they go through a metal detector and now we make them throw away their Coke.

If we are resting the sum total of our national security on those two things,

then no wonder people ask the question like I got all day yesterday: Are we really safer? I wasn't able to answer that question yesterday the way I really wanted to be able to, Mr. DELAHUNT and Mr. MEEK.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I think what is important here, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, is the fact that we know we have a real security plan. Members can log on to housedemocrats.gov and get this plan. It is there, Madam Speaker. Folks can't say that we don't have a plan or that we are not thinking about what we should be doing as it relates to terrorism. That is not the case.

We have two wars going on, one is against the war on terror and one is the war in Iraq. The war in Iraq is a miserable failure, as we look at it from a governance standpoint of this Congress and the leadership in the White House doing what they need to do.

Our troops and the commanders on the ground are doing the best they can with what they have to work with. But the bottom line is we didn't do diplomatically, and when I say we, the Republican majority and the White House, in making sure we had a true coalition before we went into Iraq. It is a coalition we paid for. The American taxpayer paid for whatever 25 troops that the country sent there, or the second largest force in Iraq, Madam Speaker, that is still there in the war in Iraq are contractors, that the U.S. taxpayers, where you get that \$300 billion from, Mr. DELAHUNT.

So as far as governance, it is not happening from our side. The war that Mr. Gingrich referenced is the war that had the connection with al Qaeda and the Taliban government. That was the response to 9/11.

Mr. DELAHUNT. But we left too early.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. But we left, and now we have commanders on the ground in Afghanistan saying, we are losing ground now. We need help now.

But guess what, Madam Speaker? War number two, that has nothing to do with the war on terror but now has become a war on terror, or we are trying to connect it, and the President spent almost more time trying to connect the reason why we went into Iran with 9/11. And that is not the case, and I think everybody knows it. The Taliban wasn't in Iraq. They weren't there, Madam Speaker. They have operatives there now as it relates to al-Qaeda. That is after we invaded.

Mr. DELAHUNT. They are training.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. They are training there and becoming stronger.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And they are going back.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. And they are going back and training. I am going to yield to you, Mr. DELAHUNT, but I know it is hard because this stuff is so much in the face of the American people, but we want to make sure that we break it down. But let me just make one more point, please. Let me just try to get this out and then I will happily yield, Mr. DELAHUNT.