

We are losing ground to the Taliban in Afghanistan, where the NATO commander cannot even get the troops he says he needs.

Independent polls show America's standing in the world at the lowest ever recorded.

The good news is that there will be a chance in November's election where we will be able to not just send a message but change the leadership here in the House and start a new direction for America.

BETRAYED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the battle on the second front continues, and the U.S. Government shows it is on the wrong side of the border war.

Two border patrol agents named Ramos and Compean chased a drug dealer down on the Mexico-Texas border. Gun shots were exchanged. The drug smuggler fled back to safety in Mexico, leaving his van and 800 pounds of dope on the American side.

The U.S. decided to prosecute. The U.S. Attorney went to Mexico, found the drug dealer, took him to America, treated his bullet wounds, and then, get this, gave him immunity to testify against agents Compean and Ramos for their shooting him, the criminal.

Both border agents were convicted by an overzealous prosecutor that was looking for pelts in her belt. She appeared to have more loyalty to Mexico than to America because she was on the wrong side.

Both agents await sentencing. The two border agents should have been given medals and sent back down to the border to bag another drug dealer instead of being prosecuted.

Yet another example of how our government is more concerned about illegals and drug dealers than they are about America and Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

TAX CUTS FOR WEALTHY, PAY CUTS FOR MIDDLE CLASS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for a lot of American families it is becoming more and more difficult to make ends meet in the Bush economy. With sky-high gas prices this summer, rising health care costs and stagnant wages, working Americans are feeling a serious squeeze on their family finances.

Unfortunately, President Bush and the congressional Republicans refuse to address our economy because they think it is moving along smoothly. But that is simply not the case.

While full-time minimum wage earners face a 50-year low in buying power, and all Americans face wages that are

falling after inflation, corporate profits have reached their highest share of the economy since the 1960s. It would be nice if corporate CEOs and shareholders were not the only ones benefiting from the production American workers are bringing in every day. Democrats believe it is time for them to get their fair share.

Mr. Speaker, working Americans are ready for a new economic direction, one where workers are justly compensated for their efforts and the benefits of increased productivity can be shared by all. The days of catering exclusively to the wealthiest have helped create the troubling economic conditions that our Nation now faces. It is time for a change.

NATO STRATEGIC AIRLIFT CAPABILITY

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a delegate of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and very active in its defense subcommittee, and also the chairman of the Baltic Caucus, I am excited and extremely pleased with NATO's recent announcement in a letter of intent after 6 months of negotiation.

Thirteen Nations have developed a plan to create a NATO Strategic Airlift Capability based at Ramstein Air Force Base. Initially comprised of three to four C-17s, the SAC will be flown by multinational air crews, pilots and loadmasters, and a multinational military structure will be created to command and control these aircraft.

Boeing, who builds the C-17, is a great U.S. company. This aids in NATO's transformation and jobs for U.S. workers.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 453

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, with record temperatures set in the first half of 2006, with hurricane season upon us, the need for Congress to address global climate change is more pressing than ever.

There is no longer debate within the scientific community. Global warming exists, and we need to do something about it.

We have the opportunity and the responsibility to take action to reverse the negative impacts of global climate change. However, this must be done both domestically and internationally.

It is time the U.S., with the international community, fully address the issue of global climate change.

Congressman Jim Leach and myself have introduced H. Con. Res. 453, a bipartisan resolution expressing the need for the U.S. to participate in inter-

national agreements that address global climate change.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and join us in taking this step and begin addressing global climate change.

CONGRATULATING THE 2006 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD CHAMPIONS

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, millions play our national pastime for the love of the game, but only the truly elite can claim the title of world champion.

I have the great pleasure of representing Columbus, Georgia, home of the 2006 Little League World Champions. Our community beams with pride for these incredible young sluggers and slingers.

The players for Columbus Northern are living the dream of every American boy who has ever slipped on a glove. In order to compete for the world championship, Columbus Northern first had to defeat the best Little League teams that the United States had to offer.

Then, as the American champions in the World Series, Columbus Northern took on a tough and talented Japanese team. The game was a defensive struggle, allowing Columbus Northern to win 2-1 after a 2-run homer by catcher Cody Walker, who also caught the fastball of winning pitcher Kyle Carter. The champs recently met one of the Nation's biggest baseball fans, President Bush, when he was in Atlanta.

The Columbus Northern team is on top of the world. It will have memories to last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the players of Columbus Northern. Georgians and Americans are thrilled with their success, and we are more than a little jealous, but very thankful, that they get to live every boy's dream.

PRESIDENT BUSH CONTINUES TO MISREPRESENT THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in his speech on Monday night, President Bush continued to try to justify the invasion of Iraq by drawing nonexistent links to the 9/11 attacks. The President's misuse of the fifth anniversary of the attacks shows that he will go to any length to divert our attention from his failures in Iraq, which has diverted focus from America's real national security concerns.

President Bush, and most Republicans here in Congress, refuse to admit that things are not going well in Iraq. One has to only look at a report that we requested from the President's own Pentagon showing that the situation in Iraq has greatly worsened. The number of attacks against Americans and

Iraqis has climbed to its highest level since the war began, and in the month of July alone 100 Iraqis a day were being killed.

U.S. troops continue to pay too high a price. To date, more than 2,600 brave American soldiers have lost their lives, an additional 19,000 have been wounded, and we have now spent over \$320 billion in Iraq. Do we really need to lose 58,000 soldiers before we stop staying the same course in Iraq as we did in Vietnam?

It is time for a new strategy in Iraq, one where the Iraqis themselves, not foreign occupiers, are responsible for their Nation's future.

UNITY AND RESOLVE WILL WIN THE WAR ON TERROR

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Osama bin Laden himself has stated that victory for the extremists in Iraq will mean America's defeat and disgrace forever.

The terrorists clearly see Iraq has the central front in the global war on terror.

On Monday evening, the fifth anniversary of the attacks of 9/11 and the beginning of the war on terror, the President clearly stated the importance of success in Afghanistan and Iraq and winning that war. He understands the resolve that we need to meet the significant challenges faced by our Nation.

And what is the response of the Democratic leadership? To attack the President for even mentioning Iraq as a part of the war on terror. They seek, once again, to distract and divide America to score cheap political points.

For whatever reason, they do not take the terrorists at their word with regard to Iraq, or they do not care because they see a political benefit in undermining U.S. efforts.

The Democrats must understand that America must be united. We must have the resolve to defeat the terrorists in the heart of their power so we do not have to fight them on our own streets.

One has to wonder if the Democratic leadership cares as much about winning the war on terror as they do about winning the election in November.

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PRESIDENT BUSH USES NATIONALLY TELEVISED SPEECH TO SPREAD DISINFORMATION

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, just when you thought the Bush administration had finally faced reality and admitted that Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11,

President Bush uses a nationally televised speech on 9/11 to once again blur the lines between the war on terror and the war in Iraq.

Last week, a bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee report concluded that the U.S. intelligence analysts were strongly disputing any link between al Qaeda and Iraq, while the Bush administration officials were fabricating links to justify invading Iraq.

Over the last month, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY have admitted to the American people there was no link between the terrorist attack on September 11 and the Iraq war. Yet, during a nationally televised speech on Monday, the President once again had the audacity to say that the safety of America depends on the outcome of the battle in the streets of Baghdad, once again connecting in many people's minds 9/11 and Iraq.

The President can't have it both ways. And on an issue so important as this, national security, the President should level with the American people and admit it is time to make a change and change the course in Iraq.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN CLAIR BURGNER

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform the House of the passing of our former colleague, the gentleman from California, Clair Burgener. He was an amazing individual, and I have a load of articles here that have been written about him over the past several days.

I think the San Diego Union-Tribune put it extraordinarily well when it said: "Burgener earned a reputation for honesty and modesty in a three-decade career that began in San Diego city politics and ended in the hallways of the Nation's Capitol."

As we look at this time of partisan divide here, former nine-term Democratic Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin said, "He was a wonderful colleague. He and I were on different levels as far as our voting went, but we didn't try to hold back or fool each other."

And Herb Klein, the retired editor in chief of Copley Newspapers and director of communications for President Nixon, recalled a man of unbending ethics: "Clair Burgener was the epitome of a great American Congressman. He was honest and ethical, a strong leader dedicated to his community. He was a wonderful friend whose warmth never waned."

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers go to Clair's wife, Marvia. We thank him for his extraordinary service to the United States of America.

PRESIDENT ATTEMPTS TO CONNECT IRAQ WITH OVERALL WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, President Bush continued this difficult job he has of trying to connect the war in Iraq with al Qaeda. He said it is the most difficult part of his job. Because there is no connection.

Even the Senate report this past week said, and it is a bipartisan report from the Senate Intelligence Committee, said there is no link between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. The Senators wrote: "Saddam expressed only negative opinions about Osama bin Laden."

Yet the President had the audacity on Sunday night to say that our Nation's safety depends on what happens in the streets of Baghdad. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have to ask the President, where were you when you set this war up and you told General Shinseki, head of the Army, we didn't need 350,000 people; we could go over there with a minimal force?

You led us into this quagmire, and you have got to give us a way out. We need the strategic redeployment that Mr. MURTHA is talking about.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

BORDER SECURITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that partisan bickering and ill-fated policies toward immigration reform will simply not solve the crisis we are facing today. We must produce a solution to border security and close a major loophole in our Nation's security, thereby fulfilling the most important role of the Federal Government.

It is time we turn off the faucet before we decide to fix the pipes. Now is not the time to work on comprehensive reform. During the District Work Period in August, my constituents delivered a clear message: no amnesty, just secure the borders now. After 22 immigration field hearings, an identical resounding and powerful message has been sent to officials in Washington: secure the borders now.

Why are my colleagues on the other side of the aisle so opposed to the will of the American people? Security is an issue that should not be taken lightly, much less used for political gain.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in Washington to represent those who voted to send us here, and we must not ignore the message they are sending. It is time to secure the borders and stop the unending flow of illegal aliens.