

POLITICAL PRISONERS RAMOS
AND COMPEAN

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, as we talk about the war on the first front in Iraq and Afghanistan, we must remember that there is another war going on on the second front, and that is the border war between the United States and Mexico. All of the politicians that are running for President this year are talking about everything. Some things are just not important. But one thing they're not talking about is the border war in the south part of the United States, between Mexico and the United States.

Two years ago, two border agents by the name of Ramos and Compean were tried and convicted for doing their job on the Texas/Mexico border. What happened was, that in February of 2005, Ramos and Compean came in contact with a drug dealer. He came into the United States at Fabens, Texas. Most of America's never heard of this little small Texas town.

He's driving a van. He sees the border agents and he turns around and he tries to run back to Mexico. He abandons the van. The border agents give chase. An altercation occurred down in the Rio Grande riverbed. Shots were fired. The drug dealer disappears into Mexico.

It turns out that the drug dealer had been shot by one of the border agents, and it turns out that the van that he was driving had, get this, \$750,000 worth of drugs in the van.

So what does our Government do? Instead of trying to find the drug dealer to prosecute him, our Government goes to Mexico, finds the drug dealer and promises him a back room deal, a deal to testify against the border agents, claim that the border agents unlawfully used their firearms, even though they said they fired in self-defense. And they make a deal with him not to prosecute him for his drug smuggling if he testified. And he did testify against the border agents, and 2 years ago they were convicted.

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But unbeknownst to the jury, and what the U.S. Attorney's Office would not let the jury know, is that before the trial took place, this star witness, backroom-deal witness, brought in another load of drugs into the United States for money. The U.S. Attorney's Office knew about it. They didn't want the jury to know about it, and they kept it out of the trial. Now the whole world knows the U.S. Attorney's Office was deceitful in that trial.

Those border agents are serving 11 to 12 years in the Federal penitentiary. The President pardoned 157 people in his administration. Fifteen of them last week. Some of them were drug dealers. But why doesn't the President pardon these border patrol agents for doing their job?

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has heard this case. I suspect they will reverse it because the U.S. Attorney's Office was deceitful in the trial and prosecution of these two border agents because they were relentless in prosecuting them.

Our government is on the wrong side of the border war. We're trying to hire more border agents, and people don't want to join the Border Patrol. One reason is because our government doesn't support them. When an altercation takes place, they side with the other guys instead of siding with our border agents.

And this is not the first time the U.S. Attorney's Office has been caught cheating in a trial. A border agent by the name of David Sipe was arrested by our government because he was in a fight and assault with a drug dealer down in Texas. And he was prosecuted for a civil rights violation, but it turns out in his trial the U.S. Attorney's Office hid evidence in that case as well, but they got caught; and that case was retried and the jury found David Sipe not guilty because the U.S. Attorney's Office, once again, didn't want the jury to know the truth about the person that came in contact with our border agent.

So it's time our government gets on the right side of the border war. Defend our boarder patrol agents. Secure the border. Make sure that the war on the second front is won, that people not be allowed to come into the United States illegally for any purpose, especially drug smugglers; and our government needs to quit taking the side of drug dealers from foreign countries and start siding with the American Border Patrol because they're doing their job to protect the rest of us.

And that's just the way it is.

WHERE ARE THE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DIPLOMACY IN IRAQ?

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, next week, the chief commander of U.S. forces in Iraq will be up here before Congress, General David Petraeus, and he will be reporting on the conduct of the war. I can remember about a year ago, quite a large delegation from our defense subcommittee spent some time with General Petraeus in Iraq; and one statement that he made at that time remains in my mind, and I have shared it with every audience I have gone before. He said, Victory equals one-third military and two-thirds good governance and diplomacy. The two-thirds is missing.

Victory equals one-third military and two-thirds good governance and diplomacy and the two-thirds is missing in Iraq. So where does that place our soldiers? I have asked myself that every single minute of every single day since that discussion. The good governance and the diplomacy are nowhere.

The President of our country says, Well, I'm going to listen to my commanders in theater.

No, no. President Bush is the Commander in Chief. The military is doing their job, but they can only do one-third of the job. The other two-thirds rests on the top political leadership of this country, and they, and I would include every person in this room, and we have not done our jobs because the political equation, the good governance and diplomacy piece, is totally missing.

And so more soldiers die, more Iraqis die, and what is the vision? What is the vision for ultimate victory and exit of our troops? There isn't any. The President said mission was accomplished. No, the mission was just begun, but there is no end game.

Within Iraq, we have a corrupt and incapable state. They have billions of dollars in their budget unspent, our money, their money from oil. They're not spending it, yet the American people are going to be asked to appropriate another \$170 billion here? Think about it, my friends.

Within Iraq, we broke the State. In Iraq, 2½ million people thrown out of their homes within the country and another 2½ million fleeing for their lives to Syria, to Jordan. And you know what? They will never be citizens of those countries. They're guests. They're actually refugees. We saw what happened with the Palestinians post-World War II, 600,000 of them still a refugee population with no homeland. And look at the difficulty that has caused the world.

So you say, Well, what is the mission? Are we winning the war on terrorism? Is America any more secure?

Well, we are having trouble in Afghanistan. The President had to beg NATO for more forces in Afghanistan. We've now got over 40,000 troops there. The situation there is not getting any better. And Pakistan, at the provincial level, the worst elements are being elected. Maybe that isn't the right adjective. But those that are most anti-American are being elected. There's trouble between Afghanistan and Pakistan at the border in those provinces. We don't have a solution there.

And Turkey, our closest ally in NATO for years. What is happening with elections at the provincial level there, mayors and so forth? The most anti-American individuals are being elected. That is true in Pakistan at the provincial level.

So you can say all you want to say about winning this war on terrorism, but how do you win a war when the majority of the people turn against this country? And you say to our military, You fix it. You fix it.

General Petraeus' testimony up here next week simply isn't enough. We need to hear from the President of the United States, not just passing the buck to, Well, let the generals tell me what to do. No. What is he going to do to accomplish this mission and bring

our troops home and begin to repair the image of the United States across a vast growing region of the world where we are losing friends every day from North Africa, from Egypt, all the way through to Pakistan and Afghanistan? What are we going to do to correct the damage that is producing more terrorists, more anti-Americanism and less resolution?

Don't just place this burden on the backs of our brilliant military. They have been asked to do everything this President has sent them to do. But as General Petraeus wisely told us a year ago, victory means one-third military and two-thirds good governance and diplomacy, and the two-thirds is missing and it has been missing and it is missing.

What can we do? Why didn't the President take two of our exemplary ambassadors, people like Zbigniew Brzezinski and James Baker, put them on the same airplane, send them over to Iraq, work with the neighboring countries of Iraq, give us a date certain in order to begin redeploying forces to an over-the-horizon position? Give us a time: 6 months, 1 year, 1 year and 3 months? Let's have a plan. There is no plan.

The only plan is to send more troops to keep extending deployments to put more burden on our military, to ask our Marines to become civilian officials within that country with the civilian workload when they're trying to be a strike force. What kind of solution is that? It's asking too much of our military. Let's give them the respect they're due but ask the person in charge as Commander in Chief to give America the plan for victory and ultimate redeployment from that region and building back the kind of friendships with adjoining nations that will not give our children and grandchildren the burden of fighting terrorism two decades or more down the road.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is April 3, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,855 days since the travesty called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude, in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this sunset memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,855 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 3, 2008—12,855 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in

the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NEED FOR SAFE VACCINATIONS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that's made the United States and the world healthier than at any period of the world has been vaccinations. Vaccinations have stopped so many dreaded diseases from killing hundreds of thousands, millions of people, it's not even funny.

But while vaccines have saved so many lives, there have also been some shortcomings in vaccines. When I was chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, I held hearings on autism; and we have gone from 1 in 10,000 children who are autistic to 1 in 150. We have an absolute epidemic of autism in this country, and hundreds of thousands of families have been affected and they have nowhere to turn.

Because of that, we passed in the 1980s what was called the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund, and it was supposed to take care of families and people who were injured by vaccines and had nowhere to turn. Well, that was supposed to be a nonconfrontational system. But unfortunately, there has been nobody, up until recently, who has been paid out of the vaccine compensation fund. And one of the reasons is because Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration have said that the mercury in vaccines, 50 percent of it is a preservative called thimerosal. The mercury in vaccines did not cause autism, and there have been a lot of studies that have come out saying the mercury in the vaccines was not a root cause of the autism crisis that we have in this country.

In fact, in 2004, there was a report that said categorically that the thimerosal, the mercury in the vaccines, was not a cause of autism. And yet, just recently, in the *Journal of Child Neurology*, an article published by Drs. DeSoto and Hiltan, both doctors, reexamined that study and they said it was in error and that there was no doubt that the mercury in the vaccinations was a contributing factor to the epidemic of autism that we have in this country.

As a result of that and other information, some of the test cases that have been raised and are in progress right now have come before the special master. And just recently, a young