

we start getting on the program and using them, the sooner we will be able to tell some of the countries that we've, unfortunately, been beholden to, whether it's the Saudis to get the oil or whether it's the Chinese to borrow the money to pay for the oil, we will soon be able to tell them, we don't need you quite so badly, and by the way, we'd like to talk to you about human rights and some other things that right now we can't be honest about because, in effect, we've lost our sovereignty because of this dependency.

But at any rate, it's a lose-lose-lose policy on one hand and a win-win-win policy on the other, and I want to see us go for the win-win.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Well, as we begin to wind down, we started this discussion about the impact of Iraq and the economy, and the economy and Iraq. And I think we started it from the beginning saying this country, we Americans have spent \$600 billion on this effort in Iraq. And at a minimum, as we've discussed tonight, what could we do, certainly in the future, in terms of Iraq, from the right standpoint, taking responsibility and making it stand up and step up for itself and paying for its reconstruction, its fuel needs that Americans are having to pay for right now, and the training of its military.

And those resources, those American dollars can certainly be applied in a way to make us safer in dealing with, as you express, national security interests by taking us away from the addiction to oil and coming up with wonderful new renewable energy sources. The technology is there, it's being developed, it's being refined. We can take the question of the jobs and our economy right now, and of course the environment.

And so, as we begin to wrap up, if you can give some final thoughts as to how the Iraq and the economy are tied together and how we can get beyond this point and do good things for this country.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Well, I thank my friend for the opportunity, and also the opportunity to spend time with two of my good friends tonight talking about very, very important issues.

We've focused primarily on the impact of the war in Iraq and the cost of the war on the domestic economy here in the United States. But when I look at my friend from New York and I look at my friend from Florida, two States that really symbolize a growing connection between our domestic economy and the global economy, one of the things we know is a lot of the issues we've talked about tonight all come back to something we all are charged to do when we swore to represent this country, and that is to provide security.

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Now that may be security from harm, from foreign interests. It may be economic security. But it all comes together. And we know that many devel-

oping countries, the addiction to energy needs is what keeps them suppressed in reaching greater levels of economic stability, and that's why oil and the pursuit of oil has played such an important role in the last 100 years in the world economy.

By exporting our knowledge about renewable energy, about new emerging economies that can be shared and applied in the global economy, I think we can give a great gift to the American people in the return of a safer world, a more secure world, and a world where we have the ability to be able to predict with greater certainty what the current economic trends are going to be and set economic policies, with the assistance of the administration and the Federal Reserve, to address these crises before they become the full-blown crises that we have been talking about on the floor tonight.

So I look forward to working with my friends and my other colleagues here on both sides of the aisle in trying to provide some guidance and direction as we get our hands on this very important subject.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for participating tonight on behalf of our freshmen class.

And if you would like to, Mr. HALL, take a minute to give a close.

Mr. HALL of New York. Quickly I would just add about Iraq two quotes, one from Ambassador Ryan Crocker. When I was over there with our Republican colleagues TOM COLE, RIC KELLER, DAVE LOEBACK of Iowa, the four Members of Congress sat with the Ambassador, and he was asked by one of us, "What's the state of reconciliation and peace and resolving the conflicts between the tribes and the different religious sects?"

And I was sitting right next to him; so I wrote down his response to be sure I had it right. His response was, "The Maliki Government is somewhere between challenged and dysfunctional." Now, that was October.

In March General Petraeus stated on March 13, "No one feels that there has been sufficient progress by any means in the area of national reconciliation."

So it's my contention that not only do the Iraqis need to start paying for their own reconstruction, I think they need to take responsibility for their own security as well because as long as we are putting our men and women in a police role to try to police their civil war and their ethnic and tribal and religious differences, it's just going to let them continue to be dysfunctional. And when we phase out or pull out or whatever you want to call it and get back to the real business that this country faces, the real dangers that we face, which, as you said before, I believe, are Afghanistan and Pakistan certainly more in terms of terrorism, that they will be forced to come to terms with whether they want to be a country or whether they want to be three separate groups of Kurds and

Sunnis and Shia or whatever it is. But that's one thing.

And the other thing is I am a firm believer that after 5 years and a least \$600 billion spent and over \$1 trillion in veterans' benefits that we have incurred that we will have to pay out of responsibility and the debt that we owe to the men and women who fought in this conflict that it's time for us to start looking at what those dollars could do at home for the things that we really need to take care of, not just for national security but for economic security, education security, health security, and all the other meanings of the word.

So I thank my friends both, and I thank the gentleman from Florida for chairing this session.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Iowa. It's been an honor and privilege to serve with you and all the rest of the Members of our freshmen class, both Democrats and Republicans.

I know the future of our country, the future of our families, our children, and I have got two kids in college right now and I know all of you have kids in high school and college, we think about that every day as we try to make decisions which will be the best for our country both from a national security and economic security point of view. And I know that we're going to work together in a collegial way to accomplish those.

So I thank you, wish you a good night, and look forward to seeing you next week at this time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MEEK of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 2 p.m.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

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

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

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, April 23.

Mr. TANCREDO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 23.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.