

With all due respect, I profoundly disagree. Does anybody believe, for instance, that Libya, with its leader, gave up its nuclear weapons, its weapons of mass destruction, because they just wanted to sit down and reason together? Is it by accident that Libya, Khadafi, changed their position after we moved aggressively to respond to terrorism in the Middle East? I think not. And with all due respect, I do believe these threats I've outlined here today are real and that they are the heirs to communism and totalitarianism. And while their victims may not as yet add up numerically to the quantified brutality of previous dictators and killers, nonetheless, their potential to do equivalent destruction is without question. The focus on "one lucky day," while disrespectful to the other victims of jihadism before and after 9/11, cannot be allowed to turn into "many" lucky days.

We also have a situation today where the possibility of obtaining a nuclear weapon and exploding it in a metropolitan area cannot be swept off the table as unthinkable. In fact, we ought to be thinking about it every day and thinking about how we prevent it.

We have seen and can envision without straining credulity what would happen in our large cities and our places of governance or commerce were other attacks such as 9/11 to be initiated. What would happen to us all, urban and rural, large and small, men and women, east and west, north and south, if our dams, our transportation structure, our trains, our subways, our purification system, our ports, our electrical grids, or our energy sources were to be maliciously struck? The results, both real and psychological, would be catastrophic.

Nevertheless, we must not give in to fear. Instead, we must think about what victory will mean in this confrontation, and whatever the definition of our terms of multifaceted success, we must continue to properly consider the possibility of what success means to al Qaeda. Those in the United States may not have an agreed theory of victory or path to get there, but Osama bin Laden and his cohorts certainly have. Bin Laden's goal, as he; his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri; and others have often articulated, is to drive the United States out of Muslim lands, topple the region's current rulers, and establish Islamic authority under a new caliphate. The path to this goal, they have made clear, is to "provoke and bait" the United States into "bleeding wars" on Muslim lands. Since Americans, the argument goes, do not have the stomach for a long and bloody fight, they will eventually give up and leave the Middle East to its fate. Once the autocratic regimes responsible for the humiliation of the Muslim world have been removed, it would be possible to return to the idealized state of Arabia at the time of the Prophet Muhammad. A caliphate is in vision from Morocco to Central Asia, sharia rule

prevailing, Israel destroyed, oil prices skyrocketing, the United States recoiling in humiliation and perhaps even collapse just as the Soviet Union did after the mujahideen defeated it in Afghanistan. These are their goals, and these are the goals we must understand if we are to be successful in defeating al Qaeda.

Remember, they warned us prior to 9/11 as to what they intended. They issued a fatwa. They said they would go after the World Trade Center once again. And we, as a Nation, didn't take them seriously enough.

We are facing a strange ruthless "hydra-headed" enemy. As some have recently demonstrated in their research into the biographical backgrounds of jihadists, many of these individuals are simply driven by individual alienation and group dynamics, while, as I have pointed out, the leadership often has more ideological views. These differences must be exploited. Also, as the RAND Corporation has recently reported, our ability to help states with their counterinsurgency measures has to be greatly enhanced.

So, Madam Speaker, whatever the means, whatever the solutions, whatever the minor delineations between the terror-using groups, whatever the tactics we must use, we must take this jihadist threat seriously. It is our first duty as representatives in a constitutional government and as trustees charged with preserving and protecting our Constitution, which upholds our equal natural rights as citizens in this great land and as a part of this esteemed republic. Let us be wise. Let us be discerning. Let us be steadfast. Let us uphold our Constitution. And in the end, let us be successful.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 493. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1315. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance and housing benefits, to improve benefits and services for transitioning servicemembers, and for other purposes.

#### THE 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, it's an honor for the 30-Something

Working Group to come to the floor once again. As you know, I'm a proud Member of the "Something" part of that 30-Something.

I yield to my colleague from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE).

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I know that the gentleman from Florida, and I appreciate his yielding, is going to spend the bulk of his time here on the 30-Something Working Group talking about gas prices and the increase that we have seen and some things that this Congress has done to address the issue.

And I wanted to talk a little bit about the energy bill that we passed last year and the debate that took place along the way, one of which was what we should do about these taxpayer subsidies, \$14 billion, that we're giving to the big oil companies at a time when they're making all-time record profits, your money and mine, taxpayer subsidies.

And it's clear that with oil at \$117 a barrel and rising that ExxonMobil does not need taxpayer subsidies. They're going to make their money. They're doing quite well. They just set the all-time record for profit in one quarter in the history of American business. So there is no need for them to have that subsidy, and the majority of this House overwhelmingly agreed. Last year not once but twice, we passed legislation out of this House, in 2007, sent it over to the Senate, that would say that we are going to redirect every penny of that \$14 billion away from the big oil companies and into research and development on alternative sources of energy, alternative fuels. And what we sent over to the Senate was legislation that had bipartisan support in this House.

Now, we sent it over to the Senate, and, unfortunately, as the gentleman from Florida knows, the rules in the Senate are different than the rules of the House. So they have to have 60 votes to bring a bill to the floor, and they didn't have the 60 votes to bring it to the floor, but they had enough to pass the bill. But the point of this is we in this House took affirmative action, not once but twice, to find alternative sources of energy, to create a national commitment, and to provide the funding that's necessary for R and D on alternative sources of energy.

But that's not all that this House has done. Today the leadership of the House called on President Bush to stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Now, that's something that I sent a letter to President Bush about last month and something that would save from the price of gas between 4 and 24 cents. Now, that's not going to make the difference. When gas is at \$3.55 a gallon, 24 cents may not seem like a lot. But at least it's an affirmative step in the right direction that we need to recognize, A, that we do have the responsibility in this country to do