

Turkey, what of the Kurdish question? We need to bring Turkey into the process of reconciliation.

The problems of the Middle East are centuries old. It is an interconnected, integrated region that must be brought together. An integrated region needs to be brought together with an integrated set of diplomatic efforts.

And by the way, the countries that I just mentioned, Palestine, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Turkey, Iraq, those countries in and of themselves without U.S. aid could deal and take care of al Qaeda.

It would be wise to remember Eisenhower's words: A country like the United States needs a strong military, strong intelligence, but it also needs consensus and dialogue. The third leg of the three legged stool, consensus and dialogue, is also a part of America's arsenal. And it includes exquisite diplomacy, which means trading, education, science, technology, cultural, social, and religious exchanges. That's what the third leg of that stool does. That is what diplomacy is. Eisenhower spoke to Khrushchev. Kennedy spoke to Khrushchev. Nixon spoke to Mao Tse-tung. Knowledge is the solvent for danger, said Norman Cousins. The troops know that. The troops know the smarter they are, the better prepared they are, the better their day is going to be. Do the policymakers know that? Do the policymakers know what their role is in this war? Standing shoulder to shoulder with the troops means more than just praying for the troops. It means you also wear a helmet, a flak jacket, and a rifle. And what is that helmet, flak jacket, and rifle? That's knowledge. That's knowing something about the issue.

History is a vast early warning system. The Arabs, the Persians, the Israelis know the history of the last centuries of the Middle East. Do we? Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the House, said, "Any mule can kick a barn door down, but it takes a carpenter to build one." We need carpenters. A lot of them. Remember what Rudyard Kipling said when his son tragically died in northern France during World War I: "Why did young men die? Because old men lied." And to paraphrase that today, old people should talk before they send young people to die.

The landscape of human tragedy since the dawn of time, who has been our enemy? Ignorance, arrogance, dogma. It leads to monstrous certainty, monstrous dictators, monstrous violence. Ignorance, arrogance, dogma. What's the antidote? More violence? Filling up our cemeteries?

The answer is knowledge replaces ignorance, humility replaces arrogance, and tolerance replaces dogma. Consensus and dialogue. A diplomatic initiative with the region. A full diplomatic initiative with the region. That comes out of the intelligence and the ingenuity of our arsenal. Certainly we need a strong military. Certainly we

need a strong intelligence community. But we need the other leg of that arsenal, a regional diplomacy policy.

An international support structure, do we have it in the middle East? Do we have it with the Palestinian and Israelis? Are we working with an international support structure in Iraq and Afghanistan? Not enough.

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Integrated security alliance. We had it with NATO. We had it with SEATO. We have it with OAS. The U.S. has it, and many countries want to join it. The integrated economic alliance. It is with the European Union. All of the Eastern European countries and the Balkans want to get into that integrated security alliance and that integrated economic alliance.

We can do that in the Middle East. We should continue the current military draw down strategically and responsibly, a reconciliation among the different factions to reduce the sectarian violence, an effort that is ongoing. And we should continue it.

Let's take a walk down Memory Lane going back to 1941 just at the very early stages of World War II. A number of countries signed what was called the Atlantic Charter. And the Atlantic Charter was to deal with sovereignty, freedom and independence. The Atlantic Charter led to the organization now known as NATO. That integrated security alliance kept the peace in Europe basically as a result of that from 1948 to the present.

I will say a little side remark. The Atlantic Charter, which talked about sovereignty and human rights, when Ho Chi Minh read it shortly after it was signed, he wondered if it would apply to Asians. That is what he said. And apparently it didn't for some time to come.

The Helsinki Accords, which we mentioned earlier, which President Bush reminded Mikhail Gorbachev of and so there was a peaceful solution to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, the Helsinki Accords was signed in 1975 by a number of European countries, including the Soviet Union. And that Accord said the following, there should be territorial integrity, peaceful settlements of disputes, freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, equal rights and respect for international law. That is what the Helsinki Accord said.

The Helsinki Accord gave people under the Soviet domination courage to strive for a better life. Look at Eastern Europe and many of the former Soviet Republics. They read the Helsinki Accords. It gave them hope to put aside their fear and their despair and dream for a better life to come and then make it happen.

The Geneva Convention, talked about the treatment of prisoners, all prisoners, not just certain types, but that all prisoners should be treated humanely. And I would suggest that my colleagues and those who are listening

read the Geneva Convention. It is only 59 pages. You ought to have some understanding of who is a prisoner of war, who is an enemy combatant, is there some kind of difference between someone that doesn't come from a state or a country or wear a uniform? Read the Geneva Convention. It's 59 pages.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude my remarks tonight with a quote from a book, that was not on the list, written by Jacob Bronowski. It's called "The Ascent of Man." It is about 30 years old. It is an interesting book because it talks about the evolution of science in human civilization. But there is a chapter in this book about World War II and the Holocaust. The author of the book had most of his relatives die in Auschwitz. But here is what Bronowski says about war, which is still applicable in the present crisis: There are two parts to the human dilemma. One is the belief that the end justifies the means, that push-button philosophy, that deliberate deafness to suffering that has become the monster in the war machine. The other is the betrayal of the human spirit where a nation becomes a nation of ghosts, obedient ghosts or tortured ghosts.

Where do we fit into that equation?

Mr. Speaker, before I finish, I did tell the listeners that I would reread the list of books that I call your helmet, your flak jacket and your rifle. So now are you ready to cross the line to stand shoulder to shoulder with the troops who are knowledgeable and competent about what they do? And so we as policy makers, are we knowledgeable? And what is the role of the American people?

The first book is "A Letter to America" by David Boren.

"Iraq Study Group Report" by James Baker and Lee Hamilton.

"Fiasco" by Thomas Ricks.

"The Struggle for Peace" by General Tony Zinni.

"Violent Politics" by William Polk.

"Traacherous Alliance" by Trita Parsi.

"All the Shah's Men" by Stephen Kinzer.

"The Silence of the Rational Center" by Stefan Halper and Jonathan Clarke.

"Why Viet Nam?" by Archimedes Patti.

And the last book, number 10, "Human Options" by Norman Cousins.

One more quote from Norman Cousins and the book, "Human Options." This is us. Man is not imprisoned by habit. Great changes in him can be wrought by crisis once that crisis can be recognized and understood. And so if we have recognized the present crisis, great changes can take place.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. BONO MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of her father.

Mr. GERLACH (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a serious family illness.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

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. MILLER of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, 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, May 19 and 20.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, May 19 and 20.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today, May 14 and 15.

Mr. HULSHOF, for 5 minutes, May 14.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today and May 14.

Mr. DENT, for 5 minutes, May 14.

Mr. GILCHREST, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, May 14 and 15.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TANCREDO, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. ELLISON, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2929. To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6518. A letter from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting a copy of two Bureau publications entitled, "Consolidated Federal Funds for Fiscal Year 2006 (State and County Areas)" and "Federal Aid to States for Fiscal Year

2006"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6519. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6520. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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6531. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6532. A letter from the Human Resources Management Office, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on the use of the Category Rating System for calendar year 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

3319(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6533. A letter from the Administrator, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office's report on competitive sourcing activities for FY 2007, in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2004, Pub. L. 108-199; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6534. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Potomac Electric Power Company, transmitting a copy of the Balance Sheet of Potomac Electric Power Company as of December 31, 2007, pursuant to D.C. Code section 43-513; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6535. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting statement of concern regarding the effectiveness of oversight for the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6536. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Federal Entity Annual Report for FY 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6537. A letter from the Chief of Police, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the semiannual report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, pursuant to Public Law 109-55, section 1005; (H. Doc. No. 110-111); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

6538. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a designation pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1189; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6539. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Office of the Chief Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Determination of Availability of Coastwise-Qualified Launch Barges [Docket No. MARAD-2005-XXXXX] (RIN: 2133-AB67) received May 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6540. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Enhancing Rail Transportation Safety and Security for Hazardous Materials Shipments [Docket No. PHMSA-RSPA-2004-18730] (RIN: 2137-AE02) received May 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6541. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30597; Amdt. No. 3260] received May 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6542. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30596; Amdt. No. 3259] received May 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6543. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30594; Amdt.