

of the happy grunting and “uh uh” sounds she had been making throughout the visit, her verbalizations at these goodbyes changed to a very low and different sound that appeared to come from deep in her throat and was almost like a growl. She first made the sound when her sister said goodbye and then, amazingly to me, she made exactly the same sound when her mother said goodbye to her. It seemed Terri was visibly upset that they were leaving. She almost appeared to be trying to cling to them, although this impression came only from her changed facial expression and sounds, since her hands cannot move. It appeared like she did not want to be alone and knew they were leaving. It was definitely apparent in the short time I was there that her emotions changed—it was apparent when she was happy and enjoying herself, when she was amused, when she was resting from her exertion to communicate, and when she was sad at her guests leaving. It was readily apparent and surprising that her mood changed so often in a short 45-minute visit.

I was pleasantly surprised to observe Terri’s purposeful and varied behaviors with the various members of her family and with Attorney Gibbs and myself. I never imagined Terri would be so active, curious, and purposeful. She watched people intently, obviously was attempting to communicate with each one in various ways and with various facial expressions and sounds. She was definitely not in a coma, not even close. This visit certainly shed more light for me on why the Schindlers are fighting so hard to protect her, to get her medical care and rehabilitative assistance, and to spend all they have to protect her life.

I realize that Terri has good days and bad days. There are obviously days when she does not interact with her family, as they had previously told us. There are also apparently days when Terri is even more interactive and responsive to them than she was on the day I visited. Since this visit I am more convinced than ever that the Schindlers are not just parents who refuse to let go of their daughter. There really is a lot going on with their daughter and potentially, it seemed obvious to me, Terri could improve even more with appropriate care and 24 hour a day love that can only come from a dedicated family. As I watched her, my foremost thought was that on the next day, Christmas, Terri should not have been confined to her small room in a hospice center, nice as that room was, but that she should have been gathered around the Christmas dinner table enjoying the holiday with her family.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, how appropriate as we stand and acknowledge International Women’s Week and realize that maybe 20 years or 30 years ago there would not be a Lifetime television channel that would emphasize the issues to educate not only Americans but also the world. This is Stop Violence Against Women Week, and I stand to acknowledge the great strides women in Afghanistan and Iraq have made, as cochair of the Afghanistan Caucus; and I acknowledge

violence still peppers and perpetrates itself around the Nation.

In my State of Texas, nearly 2 million Texans, almost 13 percent of the State population, have been sexually assaulted. In Texas, every 2 minutes someone is sexually assaulted, and two women are killed each week by their intimate partner. It is time to stop the violence.

This week I will also emphasize my bill, Good Time Release Act of 2005, that speaks to the early release of prisoners. And I want to address the treatment of women in our Nation’s prisons, women who have not perpetrated violent acts. I also stand and acknowledge violence against women in Sudan, women who are raped, brutalized, and torn away from their children. We must stand up to this kind of violence. It is not only in America; it is around the world.

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children’s Defense Fund, said, “Justice is not cheap. Justice is not quick. It is not ever finally achieved.”

Mr. Speaker, we must fight for the liberation of women around the world.

I would like to thank Lifetime Television and their commitment to “Stop Violence Against Women.” Their generous support has made the celebration of International Women’s Day possible.

Yesterday was International Women’s Day, and it was brought to my attention that in light of all these celebrations of how far women have come over the decades, it would be naïve for us to stand here and believe that we have eradicated gender based violence. Statistics keep coming in, showing that the problem is widespread for both sexual and domestic violence, and victims fear reporting the crimes to proper authorities.

In my state of Texas, nearly 2 million adult Texans, almost 13 percent of the state population, have been sexually assaulted. In Texas, every two minutes, someone is sexually assaulted and two women are killed each week by their intimate partner.

Approximately 31 percent of sexual assault victims reported that a family member also has been sexually assaulted. We must raise awareness about how we as a society can take care of the victims of such crimes. An estimate of 82 percent of rapes and sexual assaults go unreported because of shame, fear, hurt and anger. Nearly 80 percent of those raped know the person who raped them.

Family and friends not only help their loved one deal with the effects of an assault, and must manage their own feelings about the victimization of someone they care about. The impact of such a traumatic experience is severe. Thirty percent of rape victims contemplate suicide, and 13 percent attempt to take their own life.

I have worked with formidable organizations such as Texans Against Sexual Assault, who work to bring voices to women who have been victims of sexual crimes, and help them along an emotional recovery. Also, the Texas Council on Family Violence, which has connected more than 15,000 Texas victims of domestic violence with emergency shelter and protection.

I am proud to be here, and grateful to these organizations and their hard work. But this does not start here. Sexual assault and violence affects all racial and ethnic groups. These victims are our selves, our families, neighbors and coworkers. Together we must take a stand and work together for women’s rights. We must work on building a brighter future, and make gender based violence a thing of the past. One day or week or month is not enough to do it all, but it’s a beginning. Marian Wright Edelman, the founder and President of the Children’s Defense Fund said, “Justice is not cheap. Justice is not quick. It is not ever finally achieved.”

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I read from a story today in The Washington Post, page A8, “Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican, South Carolina, who has spent weeks attempting to recruit Democratic support for a plan to restructure Social Security, said yesterday that Republicans ‘made a strategic mistake’ by initially focusing on a proposal to create individual investment accounts,” and, as he says, “We’ve now got this huge fight over a sideshow. It’s always been a sideshow, but we sold it as the main event.”

What he is talking about is that, as the President himself has admitted, the privatization of Social Security is and has nothing to do with fixing potential future financing problems in Social Security. It is a battle, in fact, if it was won under the President’s terms, that would divert income from Social Security and, in fact, accelerate its financial problems from 40 years in the future to a mere 10 or 20 years in the future.

Senator GRAHAM, Republican from South Carolina, has come to the conclusion that, as many of us have been saying on this side of the aisle, we should fix Social Security first, then engage in a debate over how best to encourage or assist Americans in having more private resources through IRAs, 401(k)s or other sorts of devices for their retirement.

The basic vision of the founders of Social Security still holds: President Roosevelt said that he wanted to have a program that was not a dole; that had its own source of funding that would be guaranteed, and it would be earned. Earned. And that is what Social Security is, an earned guaranteed benefit that not only covers people in

retirement as long as they might live, unlike many other plans and programs out there, like the privatized accounts, but it also provides for survivor benefits in case of untimely death to a spouse and/or surviving children. It also provides for a disability benefit.

The proponents of privatization, in addition to not fixing potential financing problems for Social Security, have not dealt with the issues of survivor benefits or disability benefits. They cannot. There is no way to do it under privatized accounts.

You opt into a private, so-called opt, because people would be coerced into these because otherwise they would see dramatically reduced benefits and they would try to bet money to win back under this plan, but they would, say, at age 18, you opt in and you do really well for 6 years. You are working as hard as you can. You put away the maximum amount per year. Then you become totally disabled at age 24, and you have \$12,000, if you did really, really, really well in your investments in your privatized account. There it is, \$12,000, you are totally disabled, have a good life.

That is not going to work. So they have not dealt with that issue. They say, oh, those people would still get their regular benefits. Well, if they are still going to get their regular benefits, but you are diverting all this money from the program, then the problems of Social Security become yet worse again.

So Senator GRAHAM has finally hit on something, and hopefully other Republicans will come to the same realization. We have not just been saying, no, we do not want to improve the lot of people in their retirement years; and, no, we do not want to help facilitate people to save more toward their retirement. Because FDR envisioned the one guaranteed leg, the earned benefit of Social Security in addition to private pensions in a different savings. Private pensions are going away, so we need to help people save more, invest more and have more to supplement a guaranteed earned benefit of Social Security that is secure.

That is what this debate has been about. Finally, there is some realization on that side of the aisle that private accounts, in addition to taking the future financing of Social Security and putting it more in jeopardy, are a sideshow, as Senator GRAHAM, Republican from South Carolina, has said, to the real issue of, are we going to take steps to guarantee that Social Security will be there not only for this generation and the near generation of retirees, as the President would do, but for all future generations.

We can do that easily. There are a number of ways to get there, one which I have proposed in past Congresses is to lift the cap on earnings. We say, look, if someone earns \$25 million a year,

they should pay the same percent of their income into Social Security as someone who earns \$40,000 a year. If a person earns \$40,000 a year, who works for wages and salary, pays 6.2 percent into Social Security; the person who earns \$25,000 a year pays about a thousandth of one percent of their income into Social Security; they finish paying social security taxes on the second or third day of the year at that wage rate. That is not fair. It is not right. If they paid on all of their earnings, and their employer, some big multinational corporation paid on all their earnings, Social Security would be secure forever. In fact, we could lower the tax rate on everybody who earns less than \$94,000 a year.

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as Congress prepares to debate another \$80 billion war supplemental next week, I call on my Republican colleagues to join Democrats in including amendments that would finally begin to hold the Bush administration accountable for the billions of dollars of taxpayers' money being sent to Iraq. The \$81 billion the administration is now asking for comes on top of an additional \$200 billion already spent in Iraq since the beginning of the war 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, it was not supposed to be this way. The Bush administration never leveled with the American people about the type of sacrifices they would have to make in order to fight this war. You will remember that, before the war, President Bush and his war cabinet said the sacrifices would be minimal. In fact, the Bush administration told this very House that Iraq could pay for its own reconstruction.

Two years ago this month, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and his Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz testified before the House Committee on Appropriations on the minimal American funds that would be needed to reconstruct Iraq. Secretary Rumsfeld told the Committee on Appropriations, and I quote, "I don't believe the United States has the responsibility for reconstruction, in a sense. Reconstruction funds can come from those various sources I mentioned: frozen assets, oil revenues and a variety of other things."

Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration either deceived this Congress and the American people or woefully underestimated the cost of the Iraq war. Either way, Congress should hold them accountable for their mistakes, and that simply is not happening. Congress should also be demanding that Secretary Rumsfeld explain where the \$200 billion already appropriated has been spent.

Unfortunately, Republicans have abdicated their oversight responsibility and are giving the Bush administration a free ride on the enormous miscalculations we have all witnessed in the Iraq war.

Mr. Speaker, during World War II, then Senator Harry Truman created a war investigating committee charged with exposing any fraud or mismanagement in our Nation's war efforts in both the Pacific and the Atlantic. Truman was a Democratic Senator serving in a Democratic Senate majority overseeing the Democratic administration of President Franklin Roosevelt. Truman never worried about the fact he was investigating a president from his own party. He refused to allow politics to get in the way of good government. And, as a result, his investigation saved the American taxpayer more than \$15 million.

Now, that is a lot of money in 1940, but it is also a lot of money today. I wonder just how much more money we could save the American taxpayers if congressional Republicans took their oversight responsibility for the war seriously?

One Republican, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), sees the real need for a committee like the one Senator Truman created more than 60 years ago. He and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) introduced House Resolution 116, which creates a select committee to investigate both the awarding and carrying out of contracts in our continued war efforts in Iraq.

For more than a year, I have been strongly advocating for the creation of such an investigative committee, and today, I also became a cosponsor of this legislation that I hope we can include in the Iraq supplemental next week.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of Congress should want to vote for this legislation. After all, one of our main functions in the legislative branch is to oversee exactly where the executive branch is spending funds we appropriate. As Senator Truman demonstrated during World War II, this has absolutely nothing to do with party politics. Instead, it has everything to do with ensuring that the administration is not wasting the American taxpayers' money.

I still cannot understand why congressional Republicans, with the one exception of the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), are so afraid of overseeing