

concluded that there was no link between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. In fact, the Senators wrote that Saddam, "only expressed negative sentiments about Osama bin Laden."

And yet, President Bush continues to contend that our Nation's safety depends on what happens on the streets of Baghdad. With all due respect, this is just not the case.

The President is trying to convince the American people that al Qaeda is responsible for all of the violence in Iraq. In reality, the overall majority of the violence today comes from the growing sectarian divisions between the Sunnis and the Shias, a civil war which some of us believe has begun.

From day one, the Iraq war diverted the Bush administration's attention from those who attacked us on 9/11. Today, Osama bin Laden is still at large, and the Taliban is alive and well in Afghanistan.

It is time for the President to focus his attention on those responsible for the horrific 9/11 attacks 5 years ago.

AMERICA IS NOT SAFER ACCORDING TO BIPARTISAN PANEL OF FOREIGN POLICY EXPERTS

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the President says America is safer today than it was before 9/11, but according to a new report recently released from Foreign Policy magazine at foreignpolicy.com, an overwhelming majority of America's foreign policy experts across the political spectrum believe we are less safe today.

Eighty-four percent of those interviewed for the survey said we are losing the war on terror, and 86 percent said the world is becoming more dangerous for the U.S. and for the American people. Again, this is a study of the top 100 national security experts in our Nation, weighted for balance between conservatives and liberals.

Leslie Gelb, the president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, stated, "Foreign-policy experts have never been in so much agreement about an administration's performance abroad. The reason is that it's clear to nearly all that President Bush and his team have had a totally unrealistic view of what they can accomplish with military force and threats of force."

In other words, our Nation not only needs a military strategy, but it also needs a diplomatic strategy. It is time for a new approach, a new direction that includes both.

U.S. MUST USE INFLUENCE IN A POSITIVE WAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the United States must begin to use its influence in a positive way in the Middle East to help secure Israel by first bringing all parties together in the region, without preconditions, for peace talks. The U.S. made a mistake by standing aside during the 34-day war. We now must help to create the circumstances which stabilize the Government of Lebanon by assisting with the recovery and by helping with the restoration of housing, businesses and infrastructure.

Secondly, the situation in Gaza is desperate. Unemployment is approaching 50 percent. The government workforce, 40 percent of all workers have been paid only about a dime on a dollar due in wages since the beginning of the year. Childhood malnutrition cannot even be resolved by the massive U.N. aid now, which characterizes 70 percent of the population as refugees.

With no jobs, little or no electricity, limited access to water, conditions are dire. The U.S. cannot stand by and permit this humanitarian disaster to continue. We must do everything we can to help Israel secure itself.

We also have to remember that we must use our influence to bring about peace by recognizing the conditions which exist.

□ 1015

IN MEMORY OF JOHN WATTERS WRIGHT, CORPORAL, WORLD WAR II

(Mr. LARSEN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of John Watters Wright. I had the privilege of meeting John 3 short years ago when I was able to present a commendation and his Bronze Star he had earned in World War II.

In 1944, as a soldier in World War II, actually as a marine in World War II, John was badly wounded during a sniper attack. Despite serious injuries, he kept fighting. He destroyed the enemy sniper's nest, saving himself and the lives of others in his division. His CO recognized John's heroism and promised to cite him for a deserved medal to commemorate his actions.

In 2003, I had the privilege of presenting John with the awards that he had earned 59 years earlier. So nearly 60 years after his self-sacrificing actions, the United States finally acknowledged the heroism he displayed in World War II with a Bronze Star, but it was an acknowledgment delayed far too long.

Corporal Wright died last month, and as we honor the life of Corporal Wright,

we are challenged by his patriotism. He challenged us not only to recognize our veterans, but he challenged us to care for our veterans when they come home from deployments. He challenged us to defend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights without question, but do that through debate and sometimes dissents.

So I stand today to honor the life of Corporal John Watters Wright, who is truly an American hero.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD

(Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, more than 3 years after President Bush declared "mission accomplished," U.S. troops, their families, and all Americans continue to pay a high price for the Bush administration's "stay the course" policy in Iraq.

We cannot afford to stay the course in Iraq. We need a new direction, which must begin with new leadership at the Department of Defense. Secretary Rumsfeld must be held accountable for his misconduct of this war. He has executed it with no plan beyond the initial invasion, rejecting sound advice and guidance from experienced generals, Middle East experts, troops on the ground, and elected officials from both sides of the aisle.

From his failure to prepare the military for extended deployments, to his decision to disband the Iraqi military, to his unwillingness to acknowledge miscalculations and false information, he has demonstrated that he does not grasp the challenges facing the Iraqi people or the challenges facing our Nation and the military.

His failed management of the war has not made us safer, and his recent attacks against Americans who question our strategy undermine the very freedoms he has sworn to protect.

To fulfill our national security mission, it is time for a new Secretary of Defense and time for a new direction in Iraq.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1442. An act to complete the codification of title 46, United States Code, "Shipping", as positive law.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1902. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for the establishment of a program on children and

the media within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the role and impact of electronic media in the development of children.

S. 2464. An act to revise a provision relating to a repayment obligation of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation under the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6061, SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1002 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6061) to establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman, my friend, from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time is yielded for purposes of debate only.

This rule provides for 1 hour debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and provides that the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution shall be considered as adopted. Finally, the rule provides the minority with one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 6061, the Secure Fence Act of 2006. This legislation, much of which has already been passed by the House as part of H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Control Act of 2005, is a positive step in regaining operational control of our borders and achieving broad reform of the immigration process.

This legislation is the product of five formal hearings in standing committees during this Congress alone. It also

draws on a number of hearings in past Congresses and a wealth of information learned through field hearings conducted over the August recess by Members of this Republican majority.

Last month, many Members of this body, who were greatly concerned with addressing the problem of our porous borders, traveled across the country to determine what steps could be taken to harden our borders and ensure that those who would wish to harm us cannot exploit this well-documented weakness.

Like many other Members, over August I traveled to our border. I traveled with Congressmen CHARLIE DENT, HENRY CUELLAR, JOHN DOOLITTLE, and JO BONNER to meet with Border Patrol agents from Laredo, Texas, and to see firsthand the needs of our country as it relates to border protection.

We discussed with these dedicated men and women on the front line of our border how best to address the rampant drug and human smuggling that occurs in an area along our southern border. We learned firsthand of the challenges faced by our brave Border Patrol agents in combating the flood of criminal activity that occurs along our southern border on a daily basis. The information we learned on this trip, and the information learned from dozens of other field hearings just like this from this past August, all have been incorporated in the legislation that we will hope to take up today.

The Secure Fence Act of 2006 advances the rule of law and protects our Nation by providing our Border Patrol with the tools they need to achieve operational control of the border. The language closely mirrors sections 101, 1002, and 1003 of the border bill already passed by the House, and authorizes more than 700 miles of two-layered reinforced fencing along the southwest border with prioritized placement at critical, highly populated areas. It also requires an evaluation of infrastructure needs along the northern border of America.

The Secure Fence Act also mandates that the Department of Homeland Security achieve and maintain operational control over the entire border through a "virtual fence" utilizing leading edge technology and through established best practices to create optimum results at the most efficient cost. This includes the deployment of cameras, ground sensors, unmanned aerial vehicles, and integrated surveillance technology.

This legislation further requires the Department of Homeland Security to provide all necessary authority to border personnel to disable fleeing vehicles, similar to the authority already held by United States Coast Guard for maritime vessels.

Finally, this legislation requires DHS to assess our Nation's vulnerability on our northern border and to address how

they can be effectively and efficiently resolved.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents a commonsense step that this Congress can take to deal with problems of alien smuggling, illicit drug running, and illegal immigration. The House has already passed a more comprehensive bill that enjoyed the support of 239 bipartisan Members. But because a broader package of reforms may not be enacted into law this year, our Republican leadership has decided to take the least controversial portions of this broader reform effort and to pass them in pieces that the other body can then take up and pass.

I would like to commend Speaker HASTERT and Majority Leader BOEHNER for their vision and leadership in bringing this commonsense bill to the floor today. I would also like to thank my dear friend, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Chairman PETE KING, who is chairman of Homeland Security, and all the members of the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees for their hard work in doing the research and hearings that were necessary to bring this bill to the floor.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation to provide operational control of our borders.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, my friend, Mr. SESSIONS, for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this closed rule and the underlying legislation, which is nothing more than political gamesmanship in the run-up to the mid-term election. Sounds good, does nothing.

To paraphrase the Vice President, it seems to me that the majority is in the last throes of keeping control of the House and is throwing vacuous public policy at us in a vain attempt to fool the American public. Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe the American people are much smarter than that. They can see through these charades to see that this country needs a new direction.

This bill is a case in point. If you were to believe my colleague, my friend from Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, and the other proponents of this legislation, this bill would lead to the construction of a fence along some parts of the United States-Mexican border. But guess what? This bill does not authorize a single nickel or dime for construction.

I asked the distinguished chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, our colleague, and my friend, PETER KING of New York, yesterday, point-blank, in the Rules Committee, "Does this bill fund construction of a fence along our border?" The transcript of the Rules