

this lawless out-of-control invasion. Our border is critically and visibly vulnerable. What is it going to take for us to figure this out? It is chilling to think what may be next. Will it be a shootout on the Rio Grande River?

We must win this battle for our borders. We must win the battle for American sovereignty. We must win the battle against the lawlessness that has invaded our country before Americans pay for this lawless behavior of others. That is just the way it is.

COAL MINE SAFETY

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in anger and outrage. This very afternoon two more coal miners perished in my home State of West Virginia in Boone County in separate unrelated incidents. This comes on the heels of the 14 coal miners in West Virginia who tragically died in two mines just last month.

The death toll must stop. This is scandalous. The leadership, if I may use that word, of the Federal regulatory authority charged with coal mine safety, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, has apparently completely abdicated its responsibility under this administration.

For the national spotlight to be turned on coal mine safety just last month, for those responsible for coal mine safety to be grilled during a committee hearing held in the other body just last month, yet to remain so aloof and so deficient in meeting their mission and mandate just boggles the mind. It defies logic. It smacks of callous disregard. It is inhumane. It is inexcusable.

Just this morning the West Virginia congressional delegation introduced remedial legislation to force the issue, to compel the Federal agency in charge to do its job, to enforce the coal mine and health safety standards of this Nation. This initiative is high priority for us. The shame is that it now comes on the tears of even more grieving families and this sudden and unexpected departure of two more coal miners. Why is it that every Federal coal mine health and safety law we have on the books is written with the blood of coal miners? The status quo is unacceptable. It is totally unacceptable. It must change.

I now call on the Mine Safety and Health Administration to do its duty and respond immediately to the request the Governor of West Virginia just made in a press conference. Send additional assistance to my State to allow the Mine Safety and Health Administration to do its job. Conduct a

massive and comprehensive safety inspection of our mines. We must put an end to this continuing nightmare.

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADULT STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House regarding a recent article just published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

As my colleagues know, I practiced medicine for about 15 years before my election to the House in 1994 and I continue to see patients about once a month at the veterans clinic in my congressional district. And juggling the burdens of my congressional position, I continue to try to read the medical literature. And one of the journals that I take is the Journal of the American Medical Association. And I have been engaged in an ongoing debate in this body regarding the potential usefulness of embryonic stem cells versus adult stem cells, and I have been advocating the position that the medical literature and the scientific literature is replete with evidence that adult stem cells and cord blood stem cells are proven to be highly efficacious in human applications, in treating human diseases, and that embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, not only have they never been successfully used in a human clinical trial, and you cannot show me one research article where an embryonic stem cell has been used to help a human being, they have not really been shown to be very efficacious even in animals. We do not today have a good animal model of an animal disease, say, an animal model of diabetes, where embryonic stem cells have been successfully used to cure those animals, whereas that has been done with adult stem cells in the case of diabetes in mice. It was done years ago, as a matter of fact. They tried to do that with embryonic stem cells and it failed.

And what is very significant is this article just published in the Journal of the American Medical Association,

they had some 50 patients, almost, enrolled in a study, and they used adult stem cell treatments for what we call refractory or basically untreatable systemic lupus erythematosus.

Systemic lupus is a terrible disease. It affects 1.5 million Americans. Ninety percent of them are women. It is also a disease that is very common in minorities, two to three times more prevalent in minorities. The traditional treatment has not changed for 40 years. We have not had a new drug for this, and it is typically the use of what we call glucocorticoids or steroids and other immunosuppressive drugs, some of the drugs that we use for cancer. Very significant side effects. No new drugs in 40 years. And it can lead to very, very serious complications, to include renal failure and to have to go on dialysis. And of this group, 48 people enrolled, they cured, cured, 33 people. No disease symptoms, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association's flagship JAMA. Richard K. Burt is the lead author. There are about 10 different authors. Burt is at the University of Chicago. I know about his work. I went there to see this guy years ago because he was doing so many innovative things and using adult stem cells, and he has cured 33 people. Some of them they have been following as long as 7 years, disease free.

Mr. Speaker, this has never been done before where they can actually take somebody with severe lupus, and the only people they can typically get enrolled in these clinical trials are the bad ones that are not responding to drugs. So these are the worst cases. They are not responding to drugs. Adult stem cell transplants, and he has cured 33 of 48 patients.

Just another point to make that adult stem cells are showing tremendous clinical promise. In this particular medical group at the University of Chicago, they have treated about 50 different diseases with adult stem cells. Tremendous promise. Embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, no promise has been shown in humans to date. And as well I will reiterate they do not as yet have a good animal model that they will ever work. They are prone to form tumors called teratomas when they are used in treatment, and there are immune complications. There are a whole host of complications in animals while they try to use them.

So I wanted to bring all my colleagues up to date on this very important piece of research. It is good news for Americans with lupus who are not responding to drugs. Stem cells work. But it is adult stem cells, not embryonic stem cells.

IRAN

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, thousands of Americans have lost their

lives and billions of U.S. dollars have been spent in the war in Iraq. This war has dangerously overstretched our military and preoccupied our country for almost 3 years now, and it still has no end in sight.

And after all this, what a tragedy and disaster it will be if the real winner in this war is not the Iraqi people nor a more secure and democratic Middle East but rather Iran, a country that supports terrorism and opposes most of what we stand for. Yet today this possible scenario is exactly what we face.

Iran has used our preoccupation in Iraq to its advantage. While we have searched for nonexistent weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Iran has pursued its own nuclear ambitions. Now, with its decision to resume uranium enrichment, Iran is dangerously closer to having the capability to produce nuclear weapons. And press reports today link Iran's supposedly peaceful nuclear program to its military work on high explosives and missiles.

At the same time, Iran has deeply insinuated itself in Iraq. It has taken advantage of Iraq's porous borders and is supporting anti-American efforts there. Its goal is to promote a Shiite-dominated anti-American state that can strengthen Iran's military, economic and political power in the region.

But even before its latest nuclear pursuits and involvement in Iraq, Iran's actions have been seriously troubling. It has pursued dangerous chemical, biological, and ballistic missile capabilities; supported terrorists; and undermined the Middle East peace process.

□ 1815

Amidst all of this, Iran's leaders have escalated their anti-Semitic rhetoric, threatening to wipe Israel off the map.

Yet, rather than handle Iran's nuclear situation and involvement in Iraq early and decisively with a sophisticated policy that also addresses the broader problems posed by the country, this administration largely relied on the Europeans to sort this thing out. As a result, the nuclear situation is now an international crisis, and we risk having a radical anti-American regime armed with nuclear weapons entrenched as the dominant power in the Middle East.

We simply cannot let this happen. Iran must not acquire a nuclear weapon. It must respect Iraq's sovereignty, and it must become a constructive member of the international community. While cooperation with our allies and strategic partners is critical, the U.S. must take the lead here. The agreement brokered by Secretary Rice this week to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council is encouraging, but action by the council is uncertain and may not resolve the nuclear crisis or much else. The administration must put forth the necessary plan, and Congress must do its part. Today, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on this matter and will do more.

There are no simple answers or easy solutions, but one thing is clear: the administration, with Congress, must be more engaged and must get this right. Other countries will be closely watching this situation, and there are serious implications for the security of our Nation, stability in the Middle East and the nonproliferation regime.

We must address the immediate nuclear crisis, but we must also account for the complexity of the situation and broader, long-term issues involved; and we must consider all tools at our disposal. Yet there are limits to what we can accomplish militarily, and sweeping sanctions could cause more harm than good. Still, there are many tools available that this administration has, unfortunately, failed to utilize effectively or at all.

Here are some of them: we should actively support the IAEA's efforts. We should pursue more focused and vigorous diplomacy and encourage China, Russia, and India to play key roles. We should develop necessary human intelligence capabilities.

We should cultivate U.S. support among the Iranian population and substantially increase democracy promotion efforts that encourage the population to demand more moderate leadership. Specifically, we should increase communication through TV, radio, and the Internet. We should convey a coordinated U.S. policy. We should widely disseminate information about the regime's repression and corruption. We should provide effective assistance to Iranian dissidents and pro-democracy NGOs here in the United States.

We should increase cultural, academic, and professional opportunities for Iran's youth and women. Additionally, we should consider "smart sanctions," as well as incentives that would target Iran's leadership, avoid harming the Iranian population and have strong international support. For example, we should sanction overseas assets of corrupt leaders.

Also, we should encourage Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah, which Iran uses to reject power. We should limit Iran's ability to disrupt oil and gas supplies and increase energy prices. This includes reducing the vulnerability of Middle Eastern energy resources to Iranian-backed terrorist attacks and decreasing U.S. reliance on such resources.

We simply cannot allow Iran to emerge as the real winner in the war in Iraq. This must be a top bipartisan priority.

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

(Mr. MACK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ECONOMIC RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of Mr. MACK.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I first want to commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) for bringing this exciting news about adult stem cell success to us. Last week, Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON and I had the opportunity to visit again Wake Forest Medical Center's regenerative medicine program, where they are doing some absolutely wonderful things from adult stem cells, and I hope sometime in the future soon to bring some information about that program.

But, Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to talk about some other good news. While we were working in our districts for the past month, good economic news continued to pour in, thanks to the Republicans' fiscal restraint and pro-growth economic agenda. In fact, our unemployment rate is lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s; and earlier this month, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 11,000 for the first time since the 2001 terrorist attacks. In addition, new-home sales reached an all-time high in 2005. Finally, it was just reported that consumer confidence has risen this month to the highest level since June of 2002.

The great economic news flies in the face of the Democrats' message of doom and gloom. Before the district work period, Republicans passed a Deficit Reduction Act, which was a plan to reform the government and yield savings for American taxpayers. Fortunately, today we passed this bill again, modified slightly by the Senate; but it was with no support from the Democrats. Once again, we show that Republicans are indeed the party of fiscal restraint.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans will continue to push for pro-growth economic policies aimed at ensuring that all Americans can realize the American Dream.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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