

VICTORY IS THE ONLY WAY OUT OF IRAQ

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(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in a time of war Americans and those risking their lives to protect freedom deserve leadership, not politics. As we continue to debate this nonbinding resolution today, we undermine the overall war on terror and the successes we have had since the attack.

In the battle for Iraq mistakes have been made, but the President put forth a plan for victory that understands those mistakes and sets benchmarks to ensure Iraqi involvement and success.

On the other side, they want to have it both ways. They say we support our troops, but at the same time they say we don't support the war you are fighting. Our troops deserve better. Either commit to their mission and bring them home victorious or stop their funding and bring them home in defeat. The choices are there in front of us.

Congress should allow time for the plan to take hold, not put forth a resolution that clearly is a step in the wrong direction, a policy of retreat and defeat.

Mr. Speaker, there is only one way out of Iraq, only one way out of this war, victory.

AMERICANS WANT CONGRESS TO DEBATE THE PRESIDENT'S TROOP ESCALATION PLAN

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know where we stand on the President's troop escalation plan, and this week every Member of this House will have an opportunity to explain why he or she supports or opposes President Bush's plan to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq.

The resolution that we are debating this week is a straightforward two-page bill. First, it highlights our continued support for our troops in Iraq. And second, it voices opposition to the President's troop increase plan.

The American people don't want Congress to continue to shirk from its responsibility to oversee the Bush administration's implementation of this war. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened in the Senate, where a bipartisan resolution opposing the President's troop escalation plan is being kept hostage from the Senate floor by Republicans who seem content to allow the President to conduct this war any way he sees fit.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have unequivocally called on Congress to discuss this situation in Iraq and to take action to change our course there. Here in this House, we have begun the process this week.

DO NOT ENCOURAGE TERRORISTS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn H.Con.Res 63, and the destructive message it sends our troops. Additionally, it sends a message that emboldens the very terrorists we are fighting to prevent another 9/11.

The debate over this resolution makes America appear weak in her resolve to win the war on terror. We have seen terrorism all across the globe, from bombings in Spain, to London and Bali.

America is fighting radical Islamic jihadists, an enemy that poses a threat of colossal proportions. They will stop at nothing to follow their twisted version of Islam and to pursue the destruction of Israel and Western civilization.

That is why I stand here with the firm resolve and pledge to protect my country and future generations from terrorism. I took an oath and have a constitutional obligation as a Member of Congress to protect and defend America from all enemies, foreign or domestic. This is an obligation all Members of Congress share, and it simply escapes me how some of my colleagues fail to understand the dire consequences of leaving Iraq.

LIES GOT US INTO IRAQ

(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 illegally attacked and invaded Iraq in a war based on lies. Now those same lies are being used to tell the American people we must escalate and continue to fund the war in the name of the troops. Now, where does this logic end?

The war could go on endlessly as we profess our support for the troops. It is time to stop using the troops as pawns. It is time to stop using the presence of the troops in Iraq as a reason to keep funding the war. It is time to use the money we have now to bring the troops home. And when they come home, it is time to take care of our veterans.

I have presented this Congress with a 12-point plan to bring our troops home, end the occupation, and stabilize Iraq. Yes, we should stop the escalation, but we should also end the occupation by ending funding for the war.

IRAQ IS A SMOLDERING FIRE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we continue the debate of opposing reinforcements for American forces in the global war on terrorism, I

am reminded of how crucial it is that we achieve victory to protect American families.

The current situation in Iraq reminds me of a smoldering fire in an urban area. Proper equipment and a sufficient number of professional firefighters are brought in to put out the fire. To sit back, overlook the seriousness or leave the scene of the fire only enables the fire to grow, become more intense and spread throughout the neighborhood.

This analogy is applicable to Iraq. As Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said recently, the violence in Iraq, if unchecked, could spread outside its borders and draw other states into a regional conflagration. Just as we know our fire chiefs would call up additional firefighters to contain a spreading fire, we must give our troops in Baghdad the chance to suppress violence and stabilize the region, which protects American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

CONGRESS IS PROVIDING REAL OVERSIGHT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the war in Iraq, congressional Republicans have stood on the sidelines as the Bush administration proved time and time again that it could not manage the war.

When Democrats took control of Congress we vowed things will be different. Mr. Speaker, we are living up to that promise. In the last month, House and Senate committees have held 52 hearings on the war in Iraq. Congress is finally asking the tough questions of this administration.

This week each of us has an opportunity to speak on the President's troop surge. Every single Member of this House will have 5 minutes to speak on the resolution. The House has not debated the issue of war like this since the first gulf war in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want Congress to take its oversight responsibility seriously. And this new Democratic Congress is doing just that.

ENSURE SENIORS GET FAIR ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, an estimated 2 million seniors suffer from a depressive illness, and another 5 million may have depressive symptoms. The risk for depression doubles when a person has a chronic illness such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer or Parkinson's disease. People with mental illness can get better with the right treatment, but Medicare's current policy discriminates against mental health by charging 2½

times more in copayments than for any other outpatient health care treatment.

Seniors who receive necessary mental health services reduce their hospital costs. One hospital offered mental health services for elderly patients with fractures, and reduced the length of stay by 2 days and hospital costs by over \$160,000.

I will be reintroducing legislation to end Medicare discrimination for mental health services by adjusting copayments, and I ask my colleagues to cosponsor it. Learn more about how we can make health care affordable and accessible by visiting my Web site, Murphy.house.gov. We need patient-centered health care for patient quality, patient safety and patient choice.

GENERALS AGREE THAT PRESIDENT'S TROOP ESCALATION PLAN IS NOT THE BEST WAY AHEAD

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, today we will continue debating a bipartisan resolution that voices this Congress' opposition to the President's troop escalation plan. We are not alone in our opposition to the President's plan.

Military leaders have raised concerns since the framework of this plan was announced at the end of last year. Here are a few examples. In testimony before the Senate in November, General John Abizaid, the commander of Central Command said, "I do not believe that more American troops right now is a solution to the problem."

Retired General Joseph Hoar stated last month, "The new strategy reflects the inability of the administration to get it right. The proposed solution to send in more troops will not work. It is far too little and too late."

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and Secretary of State, Colin Powell, said in December, "I am not persuaded that another surge of troops into Baghdad for the purposes of suppressing this communitarian violence, this civil war, will work."

Mr. Speaker, those are all men who have been on the frontlines. They join us in opposing the President's escalation plan.

UMATILLA COUNTY FARMERS

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the failure of Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act is a breach of promise to the more than 600 forested counties across America and 4,400 school districts.

In Umatilla County, Oregon, it is the number one food producing county in

the State. For them, a well-maintained road system is critical to ensuring family farmers can compete in this global market. With more than 340 bridges and, a State high, 1,650 miles of road, Umatilla County faces a significant infrastructure maintenance backlog and challenge.

County Commissioner Dennis Doherty says, "American farms are dependent on a farm-to-market road system and loss of those funds will cripple our local road system."

Tammy Dennee, executive director of the Oregon Wheat Growers League said, "Global competition starts locally. Being the number one wheat producing county in the State, it is vital to farmers here that the road system is dependable."

My colleagues, Congress must keep faith with these timbered counties and pass H.R. 17. Our future depends on it, our credibility depends on it, and time is running out.

HOUSE BEGINS HOLDING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, the days of this House rubber-stamping President Bush's failed war policies have ended. So far this year, House and Senate committees have held over 52 hearings on Iraq. And now this week, over a 4-day period here on the House floor, we will be debating the President's plan to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq.

The bipartisan bill is simple. It states that the House will continue to support our troops, but that we oppose the President's troop increase plan. Some of my Republican colleagues say that if you really support the troops, you must support the President's plan. But this makes no sense.

Do my colleagues not realize that our troops in Iraq were polled on the President's plan? Only 41 percent of them supported it. Not even a majority of our troops say that this plan of the President's is a good plan. What about our generals? Both retired and active duty military leaders have said that the President's plan will not reverse the devastating civil war that is now taking place in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we listen to those military leaders and our troops and voice our opposition to the President's plan.

JOURNALISTIC ABUSE ON WOMEN

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, journalism has taken a plunge into the depth of disturbing depravity at Central Connecticut University. A writer for the college newspaper wrote a slam piece against sexual assault victims. His ar-

ticle was entitled, "Rape Only Hurts if You Fight It." He claims rape is a magical experience and a blessing for unattractive women. He and his Third-World college newspaper now say the piece was satire and humor.

This mean-spirited article shows no humor, but vile and vicious and abusive words about women. Journalistic attacks on rape victims dehumanize them and show a total lack of understanding of this crime. Rape is a physical and emotional crime that tries to destroy the inner soul of the victim.

Almost one-fourth of the women on college campuses are rape victims. Journalists who are out of touch with the real world do a disservice to this field, and tragically, like physical abusers, heap journalistic abuse on rape victims.

And that's just the way it is.

NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the announcement in Beijing yesterday that the Government of North Korea has agreed to abandon its nuclear weapons program is a positive step, and I applaud the efforts of Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, as well as the efforts of our negotiating partners, Japan, South Korea, Russia and China.

Obviously much work remains to be done to ensure that North Korea follows through on its pledge to halt plutonium production at Yongbyon and to allow the return of international inspectors, as well as to resolve other outstanding issues; most noticeably, the need for complete declaration from Pyongyang of all of its nuclear activities and final disposition of North Korea's existing nuclear program.

As with past agreements with the reclusive regime of Kim Jong-Il, this agreement could collapse at any time.

There is now, however, rare optimism that a significant ratcheting down of tensions with the North is possible. The agreement should serve to remind those in the administration who see confrontation as the only way to convince Iran to abandon its nuclear program, that diplomacy can be effective, even if it is often immensely frustrating.

I hope that the President and Secretary of State will use this breakthrough with North Korea to reinvigorate diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

IRAQ WAR RESOLUTION IS BAD FOR AMERICA

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, let me give you four reasons why I think the resolution we will debate today is a bad resolution. Number one, it is non-binding. It is a paper tiger. It does