

Every one of you who has ever worked paid Medicare taxes. The money is supposed to be set aside to help pay your health care bills when you get older. If you could find the so-called lock box, all you are going to find is an IOU for \$263 billion, a thousand times a thousand times a thousand times 263. That is your money that they have taken and stolen, because it is borrowed if they have a plan to pay it back, but if you have no plan to pay it back, and there is no plan to pay it back, it is stolen.

Mr. Speaker, you have now been speaker for 1,355 days and you will not let this House vote to balance the budget. You will not allow a vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, and you do not deserve to be speaker, but the American people deserve to know the truth.

LONELY IN THE QUEST FOR PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the well of the House is lonely in both appearance and the substance of which one comes to speak. Today I speak about a matter that has troubled me from the time that the first pronouncements came from the White House as we moved toward the summer recess and then went home to our respective districts to be with our constituents and to listen to their viewpoints and to do their bidding; from that moment in June, I stood on the floor of the House and asked for concern and reconciliation on issues dealing with Iraq. In February of 2001 I stood on the floor to ask that we not abandon the crisis in the Mideast and, to my dismay, for 9 months, there was no attention to the proliferation of suicide bombings and killings, and even in the last 24 hours tragedy occurred in the State of Israel, our friend, with the suicide bombing. The war of terrorism still wages in Afghanistan, and President Karzai is depending upon the United States remaining strong and fighting against terrorism, building the Nation, helping the men and women and children that want democracy in Afghanistan. Based on the resolution that I supported after the terrorist acts, the horrific acts, and my own personal visit to Afghanistan visiting with the people, walking the streets, seeing the landmines and the devastation, I remain committed to fighting terrorism.

But it costs \$1 billion a month, and we realize that the horrific act, as we have just seen, that occurred on September 11 occurred because we needed to do some things better, intelligence-sharing and information, and I hope that the families will get the truth.

But now we come with a pronouncement that we are prepared to make a unilateral attack on Iraq. As I read the

resolution that the President has now offered to us, there are some things that I agree with, that Iraq persists in violating resolutions of the United Nations Security Council by continuing to engage in brutal repression of the civilian population. I agree. Whereas members of al Qaeda as organizations being housed, or the responsibility for attacks in the United States may be known to Iraq, I agree. But they may be known as well to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

We must realize that in this determination, we are better, as Americans, if we work through this process through reconciliations and the United Nations Security Council. What are we to do when nations around the world disturb us? Is it our responsibility to, on behalf of the American people, send our young men and women into harm on a unilateral basis? Are we to continue operating on a deficit where there is no money to wage war without substance?

I ask the President, as this resolution is sent forward, let us sit down at the table and really enunciate a policy that brings no shame to this Nation. For there are no wimps in this Nation; not a one of us would shy away from a fight to defend this land. I may not be in a position to go, but you could ask any one of us who would accept to go, but those young men and women are already on the frontline. I have seen them. I have seen the body bags in Afghanistan. Those of us who know history know how we left the marine troops in Lebanon where 200-plus died. Those of us who know history know about Vietnam and the body bags, 56,000 that came home.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intent to argue against an administration that wants to do what is right for America; I want to follow the Constitution that says this body must declare war.

This resolution in its language allows the President the opportunity to do unilateral attack on Iraq with no support from our multinational allies and to do a preemptive attack. I will go home this weekend to hold a citizens forum to listen to the constituents of the 18th congressional district. Whoever is hearing my voice, I ask you to join around kitchen tables, PTA meetings, churches and synagogues and mosques. Begin the discussion. Do not be acted upon. This is America.

Mr. Speaker, though this is a lonely place, I would much rather stand here today on September 19, 2002 and raise my voice, for I will never forget Secretary MacNamara's words post the Vietnam War: he wished he had said something. He wished he had stood up. He wished he was counted against a war that may not have been what we all thought it could have been; not against those heroes who died, Mr. Speaker, we will always respect the Vietnam vets, but I will come to this well lonely so that we can hear the truth and that peace will survive.

FREE SPEECH FOR AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full hour, but as we are talking about our men and women in uniform, and I want to join with the gentlewoman from Texas, that we are very fortunate to have the men and women who serve this Nation, and God bless them, and also the families of those who serve this Nation, the men that serve this Nation and the women, that we do appreciate them. That is really one of the reasons I am on the floor today, because I do appreciate and I cherish the First Amendment right of the Constitution of the United States of America, and I know that many men and women have died for that right and other rights that we enjoy based on our Constitution.

But the reason I am here, Mr. Speaker, is because our churches and synagogues are denied the First Amendment rights to talk about issues such as political issues. Well, some people might not know the history, and the history is this, that from day one of the beginning of this Nation, the preachers and priests have had the freedom to talk about political issues and actually had that freedom until 1954. If this was 1953, Mr. Speaker, I would not even be on the floor, because there would be no problem. The churches had freedom of speech until 1954.

In 1954, Lyndon Baines Johnson, United States Senator and majority leader, a very strong position that he held in the United States Senate, had the H.L. Hunt family back in Texas opposed to his reelection because they were saying that Johnson was soft on communism. So the H.L. Hunt family had established 2501(c)(3) think tanks, obviously not churches, but think tanks. So Johnson, being the man that he was, put an amendment on a revenue bill going through the Senate in 1954 that was never even debated; they never debated the amendment. Basically what he said was if you are a 501(c)(3), you may not have political speech.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am one who believes sincerely that the strength of this Nation depends on our spiritual leaders having the right of free speech, whether it be a political issue that they think is important or whether it should be a moral issue that is somewhat political. What Mr. JOHNSON did was to give the authority to the Internal Revenue Service to be able to say what can be said and not said as it relates to political issues of the day.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I believe sincerely that the moral future of this country depends on our religious leaders having the freedom to talk about issues, should they choose.