

a portion of the \$6,000 benefit, I was shocked and insulted. My son was not married, but I am sure there are numerous young widows who do not need another complication in their life.

"Our country should not add to their burden with additional taxation. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help you in Illinois to get this bill passed. Speaker HASTERT is my Congressman, and I would be happy to get in touch with him."

Madam Speaker, I am asking the House leadership to please bring to the floor H.R. 693 as a stand-alone bill and let us send it to the other body. The photographs behind me are a few of the faces of young men and one woman who have died fighting for Afghanistan in Iraq. I have written to the President of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and I am calling on Republicans and Democrats. This is an issue of morality. It is the right thing to do to say to the families who have given their loved ones, you do not owe us a tax.

Madam Speaker, I thank God for the gift of our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless them. Those who have lost loved ones I ask God to please hold in his arms and comfort those who have given their loved ones for freedom.

Let us pass this legislation before we leave in November. Let us not ask Tyler Jordan and his mother to pay a tax on the gift of his father and her husband.

God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. DAVIS of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHER SPEAKS OUT

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was not going to

speaking today but I felt compelled after I heard some remarks by one of our distinguished colleagues from the other party about the spending that the United States is proposing to do in Iraq and his concerns for the deficit situation in the United States of America. And I share his concern for the deficit, but I need to clarify some facts if we are concerned about the deficit, and then we must be consistent.

Madam Speaker, that same party in this Congress, and this is my first term here, has proposed amendments to major pieces of legislation that would have increased the deficit by \$890 billion. Members heard me right, almost a trillion dollars of an increase on top of the deficit that exists right now. And yet in the Committee on the Budget when the chairman proposed a 1 percent cut, just a 1 percent cut in waste, fraud and abuse, Madam Speaker, the distinguished members of the other party all, 100 percent of them, voted no. The chairman did not get one single vote to cut just 1 percent in waste, fraud and abuse in that committee.

Is it because there is no waste, fraud and abuse in the Federal Government? Is the Federal Government so efficiently run that we cannot find 1 percent in waste, fraud and abuse?

Madam Speaker, I have been mentioning lots of examples as part of the Washington Waste Watchers Group that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) and I created with a number of our colleagues, but let me mention a couple of small examples to illustrate how much waste exists.

For example, Medicaid alone paid \$1.6 million to a Wisconsin transportation company for multiple round-trip billings for people that were dead or that were hospital-bound that were not moving anywhere.

There is a lot more. The Veterans Affairs inspector general has identified over 5,500 possible cases of individuals who may be defrauding the government by receiving benefits intended for veterans who have died, who are dead, who are not there, who do not exist. Totally fraudulent. Again, that is money that does not go to the real veterans that deserve it.

Over the past 5 years, 6,733 fugitives have been arrested for illegally receiving food stamps. By the way, 1,500 of those were drug offenders, 31 were murders, 45 were sex offenders and child molesters, and hundreds were wanted for assault and robbery, and yet they received benefits they are not qualified for.

And yet some will say it is not enough to cut 1 percent in waste, fraud and abuse, and we see what they request as opposed to that, and we hear time and time again, the Democrats keep saying we have to raise taxes. We have to raise taxes because there is not enough money, because the Federal Government is run so efficiently that we cannot cut 1 percent of waste, fraud and abuse.

Madam Speaker, the facts do not bear that out. The Federal Government does waste people's money. The Federal Government loses almost \$20 billion a year that just evaporates, they do not know where it is. The Federal Government cannot even misspend it because it is lost. And then they still say, the Democratic side, that we have to raise the hard-working American taxpayer's taxes because there is no waste, fraud and abuse.

Madam Speaker, the American people know better. We can and we must cut waste, fraud and abuse; and clearly, the days of raising taxes on the American people have to be over, and they are.

THROWING MORE MONEY AT IRAQ IS NOT THE ANSWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, earlier this week U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell spoke to a business forum in Detroit. His topic, the Middle East. His message, the nations of the Middle East need to transform themselves.

The Bush administration, having failed to find weapons of mass destruction, failed to find Saddam Hussein, failed to capture Osama bin Laden, failed to eradicate the Taliban, failed to implement the road map to peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, and of course failed to secure the peace in Iraq, is trying to salvage something out of its disastrous policy so they are talking about this policy of transformation.

The Bush administration is trying to get the American people to believe that throwing \$87 billion more at Iraq will begin the process of transformation by building the garden spot of the Middle East and that other nations will magically follow the lead.

It will not work. Their policy is doomed to fail, throwing more money is not the answer in Iraq.

As the Detroit Free Press reported, although Secretary Powell had plenty of advice for Middle Eastern nations about how to conduct their affairs, he offered no plan for the road to peace. That is not surprising because the Bush administration has no plan for peace in the Middle East, no plan for postwar Iraq, no plan for getting the United States out of Iraq, and fundamentally, no long-term plan for energy independence for America which would give us the leverage we need to play the role of honest broker instead of dependent addict.

Secretary Powell said in Detroit that the Arab nations are plagued by poverty, alienation and despair. He said the Arab world needs to embrace free trade and democratize in order to break out of the cycle. But free trade cannot bring democracy. If that were

true, the Arab world would be a democratic paradise and have already broken the cycle of poverty, alienation and despair.

Instead, the oil oligarchies of the Middle East have already been trading for decades and decades. We trade extensively with the Bush administration's close friends in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In fact, we have an oil trade deficit with them of over \$8 billion a year. We trade extensively with the Bush family's close friends in Kuwait. We have an oil trade deficit with them of over \$1 billion a year. And what about Iraq, home to the second largest set of oil reserves in the world? We had over a \$3.5 billion trade deficit with them, even when sanctions were being imposed. The problem with the oil oligarchies is hardly a lack of trade.

The Detroit Free Press also ran a story "Oil, Gas Tighten U.S. Connection to Mideast," and "Alternative Fuels Dismissed at Forum."

As reporter John Gallagher wrote, "The U.S.-Arab Economic Forum gave a glimpse Monday at the future of American energy policy. It sure looked a lot like the past." And therein lies the problem. The past is filled with war and conflicts, much of it tied to the politics that come from the oil field across the Middle East. That is what the future will look like unless the United States achieves energy independence here at home.

Indeed, oppression and oil seem to go hand in hand, and it is a world that previous U.S. administrations, doing the bidding of Exxon, Chevron, Royal Dutch Shell, BP and other big oil companies have had a big hand in creating for over half a century. The United States at the dawn of this century is utterly dependent on Middle East oil. Our biggest trading partner, the Saudis, are increasingly brazen about the nature of our relationship, and their oil minister said in Detroit on Monday, "Detroit makes a lot of cars, we produce a lot of oil; you can see the connection." You send us the oil, and we send them our dollars.

It is easy to see that the Saudis have George W. Bush exactly where they want him. They have DICK CHENEY exactly where they want him. They have Colin Powell exactly where they want him. And they have the American people exactly where they want us. They have us addicted to their oil and begging for our next fix. To me, that is unacceptable.

Here is what David O'Reilly, CEO of Chevron Texaco said in Detroit, "We are in for a long period of dependence on fossil fuels." Well, that is no problem as long as we do not mind American dollars going to the Middle East for oil only to end up in the hands of terrorists who then kill us. The Bush administration might be comfortable with our relationship with those oil states, but I am not. That is why I have introduced the Biofuels Energy Independence Act of 2003, H.R. 130, and ask my colleagues to cosponsor it.

OIL, GAS TIGHTEN U.S. CONNECTION TO MIDEAST

(By John Gallagher)

The U.S.-Arab Economic Forum being held in Detroit gave a glimpse Monday at the future of American energy policy. It sure looked a lot like the past.

Speakers on a panel devoted to energy needs agreed that a reliance on Middle East oil and natural gas is the cornerstone of any future American policy.

Far from fostering a U.S. policy of independence from Middle Eastern producers, the panel suggested that ever-closer ties with the region and its vast oil and natural gas reserves will be needed to meet U.S. consumption.

Ali bin Ibrahim Al Naimi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources in Saudi Arabia, captured the almost cozy nature of the discussion when he quipped to the audience: "Detroit makes a lot of cars. We produce a lot of oil. You can see the connection."

Indeed, any stresses and strains in the energy relationship between the United States and Middle Eastern nations were simply not mentioned Monday. Panelists used the words "partner" and "partnership" multiple times. Alternative fuels such as solar and hydrogen were brought up just long enough to be dismissed.

"It's hard for people to visualize how massive the oil and gas industry is," panelist Lee Raymond, chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil Corp., said at one point.

Even if alternative fuels were to grow at a rate of 20 percent a year, they would still supply just 1 percent of U.S. needs while the vast, vast majority of capital in the energy industry is going into oil and gas," he said.

Clarence Cazalot, president and CEO of Marathon Oil Corp., underscored the point by declaring that Marathon has no projects in the works dealing with alternative sources of energy.

The panel was convened to talk about Middle Eastern oil policy, so it was not surprising that it did not take up broader energy problems.

And the business-as-usual approach probably was assured by the make-up of the panel. Two Middle Eastern oil ministers, four U.S. oil company chief executives, and former Michigan Sen. Spencer Abraham, now U.S. Secretary of Energy in President George W. Bush's cabinet.

Even so, it was surprising how little mention was made of broader energy problems. There was no discussion of this summer's surge in gas prices, except when Al Naimi declared that the war in Iraq had produced no significant increase in prices this year. Nor was there any discussion of the recent blackout that left metro Detroit, much of the Northeast and parts of Canada in the dark.

Instead, oil producers and oil company executives agreed that there was no getting around the realities of the United States being the world's biggest energy consumer and the Middle East holding the world's biggest reserves of oil and natural gas.

"We're in for a long period of dependence on fossil fuels," said David O'Reilly, chairman and CEO, of Chevron Texaco Corp., told the audience at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center.

U.S. energy consumption is expected to grow 50 percent by 2025; Al Naimi estimated, a figure that no one disputed.

Yet around the edges of the discussion Monday, a few glimpses of potential problems crept into the discussion.

If the United States is worried about a stable supply of oil and natural gas, it turns out that producing nations like Saudi Arabia and Qatar are worried at least as much about a stable demand.

Russia, Mexico and other non-Arab oil-producing nations are clamoring for more access to the U.S. markets. The panelists noted that Middle Eastern nations can't afford to make massive new investments in their facilities without assurances that the U.S. market will still be open to them.

And there was just the barest mention of civil unrest in some Middle Eastern nations, where forces of modern secular capitalism vie with religious fundamentalism. O'Reilly noted that a solid relationship with the United States is needed to help young Arab men and women meet their potential.

As if to mirror the mostly up-beat discussion Monday, gasoline prices in Michigan continued their recent slide.

The statewide average price for a gallon of self-serve, regular gasoline is down more than 10-cents from a week ago, AAA said. It marked the second straight 10-cent drop in as many weeks.

[From the Detroit Free Press, Sept. 30, 2003]

MIDDLE EAST MUST END ITS CYCLE OF TERRORISM, DESPAIR, POWELL SAYS

(By Niraj Warikoo)

The Arab world is trapped in a cycle of despair and fury that will continue to breed terrorism unless nations radically change their policies, said U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell in a toughly worded speech to business leaders in Detroit Monday night.

Powell gave few specifics on how the Middle East can bridge the gap but cautioned that if it is to survive, the region urgently needs solid jobs, along with respect for rule of the law, the individual and religious tolerance.

"It is no exaggeration to say that without a transformation of the Middle East, the region will remain a source of violence and terrorism," Powell said. "We must not let that happen. We will not let that happen."

Powell spoke at the first U.S.-Arab Economic Forum, an event designed to bring the two worlds together with the local Arab-American community acting as a conduit. Hundreds of U.S. and Arab business leaders gathered in Detroit's Cobo Center to hear him speak.

He urged the crowd to join him in transforming the Middle East into a region full of hope and where "all people worship God in a spirit of tolerance and understanding."

Some Arab Americans in the audience were unimpressed with Powell's speech, saying he should have announced a plan to relieve the suffering of the Palestinians.

"He brought no new ideas," said Ron Amen, executive assistant to Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. "He brought no new hope."

Powell spoke at length about Iraq during his speech and during an earlier interview with the Free Press. He said he believes a weapons of mass destruction program will be found in Iraq.

"There is no doubt in my mind" the United States will find evidence of Saddam Hussein's weapons program, Powell said. "It wasn't a figment of anyone's imagination."

Powell criticized those who questioned whether Hussein had deadly weapons before the war.

Some people thought that "sweet Saddam Hussein, who was willing to gas 5,000 people on a spring day in 1988, was suddenly a different Saddam Hussein," Powell said during the Free Press interview.

"Other nations might have been willing to make that judgment, but not President Bush. He wasn't going to walk away from the challenge."

Powell said former UN weapons inspector David Kay is going through documents and interviews in a search for a weapons program. And Powell recounted his visit earlier

this month to Iraq, saying he was touched by the northern city of Halabja.

Powell said he spoke with Iraqis whose family members were killed in that town in March 1988, when Hussein's regime used chemicals to kill an estimated 5,000 people.

He urged the American public to be patient with Iraq, reminding reporters that it took the United States more than 12 years—from 1776 to 1789—to draft a constitution.

"It isn't easy" to draft a governing document, he said.

Besides Iraq, Powell addressed the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians. He said Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat "is not a partner for peace."

Powell said he has made it clear to Arafat that he must change his leadership approach.

Powell also questioned Israeli settlements and the way Israel is constructing a new security fence near its border.

Powell tried to quell concerns about how Arabs traveling to the United States will be treated at airports and by the government. He conceded there has to be balance between liberty and security in admitting new visitors and immigrants.

Said Powell: "We want to be a welcoming society."

JUMP-STARTING IRAQI ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, in the next few weeks Congress will be shaping and hopefully passing legislation aimed at jump-starting the Iraqi economy, hopefully laying the foundation for prosperity and democracy in that troubled land. The administration is proposing a \$23 billion package out of an \$87 billion program; and the question now is, what form will our support take in this first \$23 billion assistance package to Iraq? Will it be given to Iraq in the form of a loan or will it be given in the form of an investment or will it be given in the form of a grant?

We are being told in Congress that it must be given in the form of a grant. We are being told that the people of the United States must give to Iraq \$23 billion because if we try to give it in the form of a loan instead of a grant that it will hurt the Iraqi economy and they will not be able to prosper.

This is so much nonsense, State Department nonsense which is not taking into consideration the well-being of the people of the United States of America and taking the easy way out. Yes, let us just shovel money over there. That would not be good for the people of Iraq or the people of the United States.

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The objection the State Department has is based on the idea that if we have any more debt accumulated on the people of Iraq, they will not prosper because they already have so much debt. In fact, their debt is estimated at \$120 billion. That is no reason for us to just give away \$23 billion of the money of the people of the United States. No. What we should be doing is saying, who loaned that money to Iraq? And, in fact, what we are talking about here is

\$120 billion given not to the people of Iraq but to Saddam Hussein, to Saddam Hussein's regime by our supposed allies, by big international banks.

Our position should not be that the Iraqi people have to repay that debt. We should be encouraging the new democracy in Iraq to repudiate the debt of countries that gave money to Saddam Hussein which he then used to buy weapons to repress and oppress his own people. Repudiation of that debt will permit the Iraqi people to prosper and permit us rather than to penalize our own people in order to repay, yes, the money is not going directly back to those big international banks, but it will be going back to them if we simply shovel our money into Iraq right now.

No, we should help Iraq establish the foundation for prosperity by insisting that the loans that were given to Saddam Hussein are not the responsibility of the people of Iraq who want a democratic government. If those big bankers in France and Germany want their loans back which they gave to Saddam Hussein, let them find Saddam Hussein and collect those loans from Saddam Hussein, not the people of Iraq. Our assistance should be based not on giving money to the people of Iraq because we have no choice because Iraq already owes so much money. What we should do is help them get out of that debt situation by repudiating that illegal debt and, instead, structure our support as loans when we can, or even investments.

Much of what is being suggested for Iraq is upgrading their post office, their water system, their oil production, their electric system. All of those things are based on services that are provided to the Iraqi people which they will pay for. Let us structure the \$23 billion we give to Iraq as an investment in those things rather than just giving them the money and expecting no repayment for the American people in return. This would be actually more efficient in the end because it would put a profit-type of incentive into the mix when people are setting up the post office and the water system and the oil production and the electric system in Iraq. No, let us reconfirm to the world by supporting the repudiation of Saddam Hussein's debt; let us reconfirm the principle that anyone who loans money or does business with dictators does so at their own risk and the American people should never bail them out if that dictatorship is overthrown. We should be on the side of the democratic forces and give them an incentive to get rid of the dictator and by doing so, get rid of their debt rather than have to bear the burden of their own oppressor.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS: \$1,500 BONUS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, this week as the other body takes up the President's request for an \$87 billion supplemental appropriation bill for Iraq, we must do more for our troops and their families who are under increasing duress. Specifically, Congress should grant a \$1,500 bonus to all those who serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. Not since Vietnam have such a large number of troops been deployed for so long. The pressure this puts on our troops and their families is tremendous. This summer, the Department of Defense increased deployments for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to 1 year, and not until last week did the Department of Defense offer these troops who are living under highly primitive and stressful conditions a 2-week leave for rest and recuperation. And tragically this month, our U.S. casualties in Iraq surpassed the number of those killed in the first gulf war. We now have lost more than 300 soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Recognizing the increasing gravity of U.S. military involvement abroad, I introduced H.R. 3051 to qualify all active duty military personnel deployed for any length of time in Iraq and Afghanistan for a \$1,500 bonus. This bonus proposal should be made part of the supplemental appropriation bill. As Members of Congress, we may have different ideas about the U.S. policy in Iraq, but we can all agree our service-men and -women deserve our sincere recognition for their courageous efforts. \$1,500 will not only help boost morale but will send a strong bipartisan message to our troops that Congress is unified behind them.

The Bush administration is lobbying Congress for \$21 billion in direct grants to support infrastructure developments in Iraq in this \$87 billion supplemental appropriations bill. First of all, I see no reason why we cannot separate this \$87 billion into two separate bills: one, the \$66 billion defense portion, which I think we all support, and \$21 billion for the reconstruction portion and then let us as a Congress require Iraqi oil to be used as collateral for international loans to finance Iraqi infrastructure projects and ensure that Iraq construction contracts are competitively bid. Either way, U.S. citizens should not be expected to support Iraqi development while many Americans are facing shortfalls in funding here at home, in health care, prescription drug coverage, schools, road construction, and other critical infrastructure improvements. Congress must continue to work to restore Iraq to a stable and self-governing state, but not at the expense of Americans here at home and our troops abroad.

I also question several items contained in the administration's supplemental bill for Iraq, like the \$4 million to develop a set of telephone numbers and \$150 million for a national 911 system; \$100 million to build seven planned communities with 3,258 houses;