

We still have people dying there. One died yesterday from the State of Washington. And we continued to allow our young people, men and women, now to be killed in a war that makes no sense in the way it is being run. And the President will not admit it. The whole world has told him that. They told him on the 25th of February, ten million people marched in the streets this in this country. The President said, It is just a focus group. We are going to war.

Now, my belief is that we have to figure out how we get out and how we, with honor, get out of this thing. It is going to be very difficult to do that.

□ 2230

When they called Bremer back here in the other day, it was simply because they said, gee, it is 1 year to the election. How in the heck are we going to explain this mess at election time? We have got to end it. So we are now, in every decision that will be made, it will be made not about what is good for our troops or what is good for the Reservists or the Guard people or anybody else, but what is seen to be good for the President's reelection campaign.

I am afraid that unless the Congress raises some noise about this, we are going to see more people sacrificed in this process because they will not get the international community in. If the President would say tomorrow, I want Kofi Annan to take over the reconstruction and Kofi Annan to take over the military peacekeeping in the country, we will make a contribution as we have but we are not going to run it, things would begin to change dramatically.

This is viewed as an occupation. The actual choice of where do they go with their headquarters when they came into Baghdad, they went to the palaces that Saddam Hussein had built and they moved in, and they said to the people, this is where we belong; we are running the place. No Iraqi missed the message.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, if the good doctor will allow me to interject a thought here, the President tries to set this up as a two choice paradigm. We either do exactly what we are doing now or, as he says, we cut and run, as if there are no other options, but the gentleman is describing a third option. There may be a fourth or a fifth option. We ought to be looking at the situation, not just simply blindly pursuing a course of action that is resulting in more and more death.

Quite frankly, I resent it when the President refers to those of us who question his policies as those who want to cut and run. The last thing I want to do in Iraq is cut and run. We cannot cut and run, and I know not a single Democrat who is suggesting that course of action, but that does not mean that we endorse his plan because his plan is getting us deeper and deeper and deeper into a quagmire. More and more young Americans are being

killed, and even more are being seriously wounded. We cannot allow this situation to continue.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. The hardest part about this is that the American people are not being told the truth. If we read the American newspapers, they are told there are only 5,000 in al Qaeda over in Iraq. If we read the European papers, they say 50,000. We do not see any bodies coming back. They have absolutely prohibited the press and the media from going out to Dover when the troops come back or to go to cemeteries when people are being buried. They are simply blinding the American people's eyes. In my view, the American people have to demand that they know what is going on, and I think there is really no excuse for what they have done except that they have to make the political campaign look better.

This is a mess. Everywhere in the world we look at the press, any country in the world we see the press. They have all analyzed the President made a big mistake. The French, in fact, were right. If people really want to understand what is going on here, go watch the movie *The Battle of Algiers*. The French went through exactly the same thing in Algeria. There has not been a country in the 20th century that invaded a sovereign country and came out whole. Everybody loses.

Whether we are talking about Vietnam or we are talking about Algeria or we are talking about Lebanon or we are talking about any of those countries, the people who invaded always back out with their tail between their legs, and that is where we are today. Those kids, we have still got them out on the line; hold on, kid; keep fighting; try and save yourself. The people behind them are making bad decisions, again and again and again. It is a terrifying thing, and I think the American people cannot let them be blinded from it. They have to begin to demand that they see what the truth is.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I believe our hour is up. I thank all of my colleagues for taking part in Iraq Watch tonight, and we will be back next week.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5401. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Executive Order 13313 of July 31,

2003, a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

5402. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo; (H. Doc. No. 108—142); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

5403. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Report for 2002 on IAEA Activities in Countries Described in Section 307 (a) of the Foreign Assistance Act, pursuant to Public Law 105—277, section 2809(c)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

5404. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5405. A letter from the Chairman, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting a report submitted in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5406. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting As required by Section 417(b) of the USA Patriot Act of 2001 (as enacted in Public Law 107-56), the second annual report on the status of the implementation of machine-readable passports (MRPs) in countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5407. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, transmitting a Feasibility Study and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Port of Los Angeles Channel Deepening Project; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5408. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Miles 94.0 to 96.0, Above Head of Passes, New Orleans, LA [COTP New Orleans-03-003] (RIN: 2115 — AA97) received November 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5409. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Arlington Channel Turning Basin, Mobile, AL [COTP Mobile-03-010] (RIN: 1625 — AA00) received November 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5410. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Lower Mississippi River, Above Head of Passes, LA [COTP New Orleans — 03-007] (RIN: 1625 — AA-00) received November 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5411. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Port Arthur Ship Canal, Port Arthur, TX [COTP Port Arthur-03-008] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 5, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.