

for. The safety of every decent U.S. soldier is endangered when this administration refuses to find those responsible within its own list of political appointees. It is not sergeants and PFCs at the bottom.

This President has turned worldwide goodwill and unending support after 9/11 into global disgust and worldwide mistrust of America. As long as this President remains in the White House, the United States grows increasingly isolated in the world.

The war on terror will not be won alone. And America will not win when this President's policies lead Amnesty International to say the war on terror is "bankrupt of vision" and concludes, "The U.S. has lost its high moral ground and its ability to lead on peace."

That is the legacy of this administration and the reason that George Bush is going back to Crawford, Texas, on the second of November.

□ 1945

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY). 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. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again as a member of the Washington Waste Watchers.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of Republican efforts, House committees spent a great deal of time last year finding wastes of taxpayer funds in Federal programs. Those efforts, as a matter of fact, highlighted over \$85 billion in potential savings to the taxpayer.

This year, the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman NUSSLE) passed a budget resolution in the Committee on the Budget that goes a long way toward reducing and actually eliminating some of the most outrageous examples of waste, fraud, and abuse. By the way, I have to also applaud President Bush for working on implementing the President's Management Agenda, a performance-based system that seeks to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse. Mr. Speaker, we need to continue to work to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, because there is a lot more work that can be done.

Let us just look at a couple of examples. Let us look at the Environmental Protection Agency, for example, where, again, hard-earned taxpayer dollars are sent to ensure that our environment is protected. Yet a recent EPA Inspector General report found that an environmental advocacy group received nearly \$5 million in educational grants that it used to lobby the EPA between 1998 and 2001, despite the fact that that is illegal, it is illegal to use those funds to lobby.

Another EPA audit found that they awarded a \$700,000 grant without any knowledge of the work that the recipi-

ent was supposed to perform. They did not even know what it was for.

Yet another audit found that for almost half of the grants reviewed, and this is a quote, the EPA did not even attempt to measure the project's outcomes. Yet the Democrats want to raise hard-working Americans' taxes to do more of this.

The Inspector General also found that the EPA awarded a contract to an engineering firm that used some of those funds to host a golf day, but the Democrats want to raise your taxes to do more of this.

As a matter of fact, last year, the Democrats offered alternatives to major legislation that would have added almost \$1 trillion to the deficit.

Let us make this very clear. The Democrat alternatives, all of their budget alternatives massively increased taxes. One of them increased taxes by \$119 billion, the other one by \$165 billion, and the third one by, again, a little bit over \$165 billion in increased taxes on the hard-working Americans to do more of this.

That is the difference, Mr. Speaker. While the Washington Waste Watchers, while the President, while the Republican majority is trying to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, the Democrats are trying to pile on, and they have this love affair with increased taxes.

So, Mr. Speaker, while our friends, the Democrats, continue their love affair and continue to try to raise the taxes of the American people, those of us in the Washington Waste Watchers will continue to work with the President to try to root out that waste, fraud, and abuse and eliminate it as soon as possible.

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

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

FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF CONDITIONS AT GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I could not help but notice, as I am sure many of my colleagues who are in the Chamber this evening noticed, the remarks of the gentleman from Washington State just a few minutes ago, talking about what Amnesty International thinks. Well, I want to remind my colleagues that Amnesty International is about as objective as the gentleman from Washington State; and if anybody feels disgust toward this President, it is because of the harping and carping of people like that who really do not care about this country. They want to believe the Saddam Husseins of the world and not the President and

Commander in Chief of this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening primarily to talk about—

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

For what purpose does the gentleman from Washington rise?

Mr. McDERMOTT. The gentleman was talking about me specifically, and I thought we would take his words down and see if they are appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the words.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman withdraws his request.

The gentleman from Georgia may continue.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk a little bit about the situation in Baghdad at that Abu Ghraib prison and the reports of abuse by certain prison guards in one cell block.

A lot of the media, Mr. Speaker, has been suggesting that the reason this occurred was because General Miller had come from Guantanamo Bay where, over 2 years ago, we set up that facility for the enemy combatants that were captured in Afghanistan to detain them and that General Miller went over to Baghdad to Iraq to Abu Ghraib to advise them on how to obtain intelligence, actionable intelligence from the detainees, and because of that advice, this so-called "GTMO-izing" the operation in Iraq, this is what led to the abuse, that these miscreant few in this one cell block were not responsible because they were just simply following orders.

Well, Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to explain to my colleagues the opportunity that I had a week ago Tuesday to go to Guantanamo Bay, along with my colleague from the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from Florida. We were both asked to go by our chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, the honorable gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

So we had an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to go to Guantanamo Bay and see that operation firsthand. And I am proud, as I know and I feel very confident in listening to and talking with my colleague from Florida, that we did not see any abuse in Guantanamo Bay. We did not see any water torture. We did not see any use of dogs. We did not see any prisoner injury or abuse.

Mr. Speaker, what we saw, rather, was a very well-conceived, well-designed operation that included interrogation, yes, the obtaining of actionable intelligence in a humane way and in a very sophisticated way, and yet a detention facility that took into consideration the prayer activities of the detainees from Afghanistan. Indeed, in each and every cell, there was an arrow pointing to Mecca, to the east. There