

Pro forma amendments offered at any point by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate; amendment 1; amendment 2, which shall be debatable for 1 hour; amendment 5, which shall be debatable for 40 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) regarding GSA; an amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) regarding Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) regarding the IRS or regarding election reform, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) regarding the definition of manufacturing; an amendment by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) regarding OMB circular A-76, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) regarding private collection, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) regarding Cuba, which shall be debatable for 1 hour; an amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) regarding Cuba; an amendment by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) regarding Cuba; an amendment by the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) regarding Cuba; an amendment by the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) regarding Cuba; an amendment by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) regarding the debt limit, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) regarding the Comptroller of the Currency, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) regarding chapter 89 of title 5 of the United States Code, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes; an amendment by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) on disadvantaged business enterprises; and an amendment by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) regarding federal employee health benefit plans.

Each amendment may be offered only by the Member named in the request or a designee or the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee; shall be considered as read; shall not be subject to amendment except pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations for the purpose of debate; and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Except as specified, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. An amendment shall be considered to fit the description stated in this request if it ad-

dresses in whole or in part the object described.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, at this point, this bill looks like an accident that started out to happen to somebody else.

I would like to ask one question of the gentleman from Oklahoma. It is my understanding that, with this unanimous consent agreement, that Members can count on the fact that the last vote on this bill will begin at noon tomorrow. It is my understanding that the leadership intends to bring up a suspension bill after consideration of this bill but that the last vote on this bill will start around noon tomorrow. Is that not correct?

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is the same as the gentleman's, that indeed the last vote on this bill tomorrow will be at noon and that we will complete consideration of this bill this following Tuesday.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, with that understanding, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would indicate that I inadvertently missed a vote this afternoon on H.R. 4571. If I had voted, I would have voted "no."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN IRAQ

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I will read an article that was written by Joan Ryan, a columnist at the San Francisco Chronicle, that was in the newspaper on September 9, 2004. Joan was talking before a TV show, and she wrote an article about the conversation she had with Dolores Kesterson, and these are Joan's words: "Dolores

Kesterson wanted to know if I had read about the father in Florida. Dolores's 29-year-old son, Erik, her only child, was killed almost 10 months ago when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Mosul during a firefight. He had been in Iraq just 8 days.

"She found out the ways parents always find out, a knock on their door. For her, it came around 8:25 the night of November 15 as she was washing her dinner dishes. A man and a woman from the Army stood in the doorway. They gently suggested she sit down. 'This father in Florida,' she was telling me, 'when the Marines came to the door to tell him his son had died, took a hammer to their van, poured gasoline into it, set it on fire and got in.'"

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Her face remained expressionless, but her eyes lifted to meet mine as if to say, do you get it? That is what it feels like.

Later, during the show, I saw a picture of Eric: good-looking, square-jawed, and smiling. But what I really saw on the screen was my own son, my own only child.

That is why we do not look too closely, I think, on those occasions when the names and photos of the dead appear in print. We do not want to get too close to that pain. That is why neighbors have been giving Kesterson a wide berth. They do not know what to say, but they also do not want to think too hard about what she has lost: not a soldier, but a boy, who once slept in footie pajamas, who waved at her from the merry-go-round, who liked her cooking more than any on Earth.

The only way to make this war at all tolerable is to allow it to be a televised blur of road-side bombings, insurgent militia and thick reports issued from Washington at regular enough intervals to keep the talking heads occupied on the Sunday morning shows.

When embedded reporters covered the start of this war, the big picture issues, namely, the shaky rationale for the war, were buried beneath the stories of individual military units. This is why embedding reporters was such a brilliant stroke. The unwavering focus on the grit and courage of the American soldiers made it nearly impossible to criticize the war publicly.

Now that those soldiers are dying, the lens has gone panoramic. The farther we stay from Erik Kesterson and Steven Bridges and Jimmy Arroyave and Arron Clark and Ken Ballard, the easier to imagine that this war is not a horrifying disaster.

The Bush administration is so determined to keep us from thinking about dead soldiers that it even will not allow photographs of flag-draped coffins being transported back to the United States. "Maybe if everyone could see them, they would realize that they are somebody's children," one parent at the town hall meeting said, which is exactly the point. This administration would rather we not listen

too closely to Mark Crowley tell us that his 18-year-old son, just 10 months out of high school, was killed on patrol, or that his gunner, who weathered six hits to his machine gun, was killed when the seventh bullet went through his head.

It would rather we not listen to Cindy Sheehan holding her son's childhood Teddy bear, say that she sleeps only when she takes a pill, and even then, just 3 or 4 hours. "It gets worse every day," she said Tuesday night. Her son, Casey, died in April.

All of our children have given their futures, and our futures, Kesterson satisfied, finally raising her hand to speak on camera toward the end of the show: "There will be no grandchildren. These young men had so much more to give. They could have been great. They are not just wooden pieces pushed around a war table like a game."

Somewhere, there is a mother hearing on the news that there have been casualties in Mosul or Fallujah or Baghdad. She prays, "Please, don't let it be my child." Maybe this time it will not be, but it is always somebody's child.

The number of dead Americans in the Iraqi war passed the 1,000 mark this Tuesday, before the show's taping, and kept going. More knocks on the door, more gentle suggestions to sit down.

Mr. Speaker, there is a smarter, safer way for America to conduct itself in Iraq. The course the Bush administration currently has us on is not it.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, like so many of my colleagues, I spent time at a memorial ceremony, several in my district, to remember the victims of September 11, to honor the soldiers who have bought our security with their lives, and to pray for those who battle at this very moment in Iraq and Afghanistan to

preserve our freedom. Today, I traveled to Fort Campbell in my district to spend the day with our 101st Airborne soldiers and to join Secretary Rumsfeld as he held a town hall meeting with the community there at Fort Campbell.

Mr. Speaker, it occurred to me while surrounded by those thousands of Americans, all united, all prepared to do what it takes to win this war on terrorism, it occurred to me that the terrorists sorely have misjudged our Nation and that they certainly have misjudged our President and his leadership team.

On September 12, America made a conscious decision to change the world, not to withdraw from it. And President Bush deserves credit for not wavering, for realizing the time had come for America's military might to be used. The terrorists never expected we would have the fortitude to invade Afghanistan, to remove the Taliban, to hunt down and destroy two-thirds of the al Qaeda leadership.

The attacks were meant to change us, but only those who have a fundamental misunderstanding of what makes America unique could think that that is possible.

Today, the al Qaedas, the Saddams, Qadhafi in Libya, Iran's President, Mohammed Khatami, and North Korean Dictator Kim Jong Ill, they understand us better and they know that America is not the one who will change.

Some say that Iraq was not worth it. These are the same people who believed we could win the Cold War with nothing more than diplomacy, and these are the same people who think U.N. sanctions are the answer to the world's problems. But what I have found and what I saw today was that most Americans want a substantive, serious debate on what direction we should take in the war on terrorism, not disagreement for disagreement's sake, which is what I believe Candidate KERRY is giving them. I think they respect the job that President Bush has done and is continuing to do, and they understand that what we are doing in Iraq is something that needs to be done. They understand that much better than most politicians.

People across America, our constituents, know that Iraq is tough. They understand it is a struggle, but they also realize that we have no choice but to change the world, to change the Middle East if we hope to have a chance to end terrorism. Containment and detente simply do not work when we are talking about planes being hijacked and when we are faced with people strapping bombs to their bodies and annihilating crowds of civilians.

So I support President Bush. He has helped America stand tall in the face of terror. He told the world that America would not be changed by their threats of terrorism; and today, we are on the offensive in this war on terrorism for the first time. We must not change course now.

Americans have always recognized leadership when they saw it; and today,

they see it. President Bush is a leader who is not afraid to make the tough decisions, and that is what our Nation needs.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

THE PRESIDENT'S PLAYBOOK: DENIAL, DISINFORMATION, AND DODGING RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Republican leadership in the Senate confirmed last week they have no intention of acting on prescription drug importation legislation. Senate leader FRIST said there just is not time to take it up.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds all Members not to make improper references to the Senate.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it has been 400 days since a bipartisan majority in the House passed legislation giving Americans access to safe, affordable medicine from Canada and other allied nations, 400 days. Since then, the Senate has passed legislation commending a sculptor, a painter, its own staff, the nation of Bulgaria, and Smokey the Bear. The Senate has recognized the importance of motorsports. The Senate, as has the House, has spent many days renaming post offices and Federal buildings from sea to shining sea.

There was time for all of those things, but for an issue as important to the American people as relief from the exploding price of prescription drugs, the other body simply could not find the time.

This importation issue is just one example of the three Ds of the Bush administration's health policy playbook: denial, disinformation, and dodging responsibility.

Here is one example: the Bush administration suppressed the new true cost of the Medicare law. The bill was originally tagged at \$400 billion. The President told us that. The President said he would not sign it if it cost more than that. The government's own Medicare actuary and the President surely