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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 13, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL E. LUNGREN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

TIME FOR REAL REFORM AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last December we created an independent panel to simply come up with ways to make the United Nations more transparent and more effective. Today it is being reported that the panel's work is done, and their 174-page report will soon be made available to all of us. I am very interested to see what this bipartisan panel has to say about changing and reforming the United Nations.

I understand from this report that its recommendations perhaps do not go far enough. It does criticize the U.N. for being too bureaucratic, but it hardly lays the blame where I think we all know it belongs, of course, to the Secretary General Kofi Annan. It squarely should be on his shoulders.

Here is what has occurred at the U.N. under Mr. Annan's watch: We have had genocide in the Sudan; countries such as Cuba, Libya, and China are on the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; kicking the United States off the U.N.'s Narcotic Trafficking Commission; claims of sexual harassment in the United Nations; an attempt to impose global gun control. The U.N. even thought about sending observers over here to assess and evaluate our election process here in the United States.

It is noted also that our Supreme Court Justices are using a U.N. treaty to justify abolishing capital punishment for minors. And, of course, there is the infamous Oil For Food Program. This is a scandal. It is a program which has resulted in over \$20 billion being stolen from those who need it in Iraq and which enriched the totalitarian regime of Saddam Hussein. And most recently, U.N. peacekeeping soldiers in the Congo have been discovered soliciting sex from local girls, some as young as 12 years old, in exchange for money and food.

Mr. Speaker, too many times the United Nations has gone against American values. I happen to believe that the American people should not be required to pay for this organization unless there is a huge amount of reform and change. We are the biggest donor to the United Nations, contributing 22 percent of the regular operating budget and nearly 27 percent of the peacekeeping budget.

How many American taxpayer dollars went to Saddam Hussein or are paying for immoral U.N. peacekeepers?

Now more than ever we need to reassess our involvement with this trou-

bled organization. This week we will debate two measures that have to do with the United Nations. First, we will be debating the Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriations bill in which we propose to pay the United Nations over \$400 million in our annual dues. I plan on speaking on this and perhaps introducing an amendment to make sure that none of these funds go to pay for new headquarters that Kofi Annan desires. This headquarters is estimated to cost \$1.2 billion.

I have previously introduced legislation to move the United Nations headquarters out of New York City and out of the United States altogether. I still believe, in the aftermath of all of these scandals and all of these corruptions and all of this anti-Americanism, and this massive waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars, that Turtle Bay is no longer an appropriate place for the United Nations. There are many other cities in Europe that perhaps could have the headquarters, such as Paris, France; Geneva, Switzerland; or Bonn, Germany that would be perfect hosts for the United Nations. We should give these countries the opportunity to have the United Nations. I just hope they do not plan on collecting for parking tickets from the diplomats who do not pay.

Later this week we will also consider the Hyde proposal to enact serious and substantive reform at the United Nations. This bill appears to provide real reform with teeth, and I look forward to debating and discussing this measure.

Last, Mr. Speaker, in other U.N. reform related news, hopefully this week John Bolton may finally get his up or down vote in the Senate. The President's choice to be Ambassador to the United Nations is the right man at the right time to shake up the U.N. establishment and provide real reform to the institution before it becomes even more obsolete and outdated.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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