

Members of the Congress, in this effort, we need your help. We need the help of the international community. Much of the budget you had allocated for Iraq's reconstruction ended up paying for security firms and foreign companies whose operating costs were vast. Instead, there needs to be a greater reliance on Iraqis and Iraqi companies, with foreign aid and assistance, to help us rebuild Iraq.

We are rebuilding Iraq on a new, solid foundation, that of liberty, hope and equality.

Iraq's democracy is young, but the will of its people is strong. It is because of this spirit and desire to be free that Iraq has taken the opportunity you gave us and we chose democracy.

We faced tyranny and oppression under the former regime and we now face a different kind of terror. We did not bow then and we will not bow now.

I will not allow Iraq to become a launch pad for al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. I will not deprive Iraqis of their hopes and dreams. I will not allow terrorists to dictate to us our future.

For decades, we struggled alone for our freedom. In 1991, when Iraqis tried to capitalize on the regime's momentary weakness and rose up, we were alone again.

The people of Iraq will not forget your continued support as we establish a secure, liberal democracy. Let 1991 never be repeated, for history will be most unforgiving.

The coming few days are difficult, and the challenges are considerable. Iraq and America both need each other to defeat the terror engulfing the free world. In partnership we will be triumphant, because we will never be slaves to terror, for God has made us free.

Trust that Iraq will be a grave for terrorism and terrorists. Trust that Iraq will be a graveyard for terrorism and terrorists, for the good of all humanity.

Thank you very much.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 11 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m., His Excellency Nouri Al-Maliki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until 12:15 p.m.

□ 1215

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 9. An act to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5865. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to temporarily increase funding for the program of temporary assistance for United States citizens returned from foreign countries, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 15 requests per side to address the House for 1 minute.

IRAQI PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES CONGRESS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, we welcomed His Excellency Nouri Al-Maliki to address the U.S. Congress. We commend him for his sacrifices and efforts to bring peace and democracy to Iraq. Once sentenced to death and thus forced into exile by Saddam Hussein's government, Al-Maliki has devoted his life to ending the tyranny that dominated his country for so long.

I commend His Excellency for his commitment to rebuilding his nation on the principles of freedom, democracy and the rule of law; and we look forward to collaborating with him in this regard. I applaud the Prime Min-

ister for condemning the countless terrorist acts in Iraq; and I encourage him to condemn all acts of terror in the Middle East, including the most recent ones we have seen begun by Hezbollah. As the Prime Minister articulated, we must continue to fight for "liberty over oppression" and "democracy over terrorism" wherever it may occur in the world.

GAS PRICES AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as gas prices hit another record high, I call on this Congress to pass visionary legislation for America's energy independence.

This summer, middle-class families are being squeezed like never before by the high price of gasoline and farmers are watching their profits erode. With the big oil companies pocketing record profits, the only action the Republican Congress has taken is more giveaways to Big Oil. We need a new direction in this country that will once and for all put us on the path to energy independence and free us from our reliance on foreign oil sources.

Rural America feels this crisis every day; and as cochairman of the Rural Working Group, I have worked with my colleagues to draft legislation to secure America's energy independence through the bounty of American agriculture. The answer to the energy crisis is growing on our farms, and H.R. 5372 will upgrade our infrastructure to tap these homegrown resources. Specifically, the Biofuel Act will facilitate the production of vehicles that can run on E-85, ethanol-based fuel and soybean diesel and provide tax credits to encourage gas station owners to update their equipment to handle these new environmentally friendly fuels.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a new direction for America; and Congress must take action now to secure America's energy future.

COMPETITION

(Mr. BONNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the value of competition in our Department of Defense acquisition process. Without competition, we have no choices, innovation does not exist, we have no bargaining position relative to costs, and the capability of our military stagnates.

Some would argue that we must protect our industrial base. I would suggest that competition does just that. We live in a global economy, and when U.S. industry does not produce competitive products, our entire industrial base suffers. If we are to continue to

procure the best military equipment for the best value the taxpayer dollar can afford, we must preserve the competitive process. In today's global economy, that means we must not shy away from our allies' participation.

Air refueling is the key enabler to our global military might, and we need to get the competition for the KC-135 replacement program right. Otherwise, we will never know whether competition was true competition or whether our warfighters have received the best possible capability.

CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in the Hindu religion, Brahma, the Creator; Vishnu, the Preserver; and Shiva, the Destroyer exist simultaneously and represent the multiplicity of God.

Today, we are going to be called upon to determine which of the principles, Creator, Preserver or Destroyer, shall work through each of us. If we continue to pursue nuclear proliferation embodied in the nuclear agreement with India, we will be open to the principles of destruction. At this moment when world tensions are rising and violence is cycling higher, we need to take the direction of preserving the peace and creating a new opening through abolishing all nuclear weapons.

August 6, 2006, will mark the 61st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima which obliterated the city and killed about 140,000 people. Today, 30,000 nuclear weapons remain in the world. Many nuclear weapons are deployed. Any use of nuclear weapons would be unthinkable devastation. The only way to prevent the use of nuclear destruction is to abolish all nuclear weapons.

To that end, I will be introducing legislation today.

REPARATIONS FOR VICTIM

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it was described as "more than 2 hours in hell." Those are the only words a central Texas sheriff could utter about the brutal attack of an 18-year-old girl.

Driving home one night, she was run off the road by two illegals just fired from their jobs for showing up to work hung over. She was corralled just 2 miles from her house near Mexia, Texas, but she couldn't have been further from safety. They forced her into their vehicle, then drove around as they raped, beat and stabbed her numerous times. When they had finished their sinful crime, they tossed her bloody body in a ditch and left her for dead.

When she reached a house nearby after crawling over a half mile, she lay

on the porch and the woman inside heard her say, "I'm going to die." The woman who found her covered in blood said she would never as long as she lived get that look on her face out of her mind.

Javier Martinez of Mexico and Noel Hernandez of Honduras will have their day of judgment in a Texas courthouse very soon, but the two countries these outlaws come from should be held accountable and pay reparations to the victim of this assault.

And that's just the way it is.

IRAQI PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES CONGRESS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I sat here before and listened to the speech of Prime Minister Al-Maliki of Iraq. Quite frankly, I was underwhelmed. I am glad that he condemned terrorism by al Qaeda in Iraq, but we heard not a word of condemnation about Hezbollah and their terrorism against Israel.

I guess, according to the Prime Minister, terrorism against Iraq is no good, but terrorism against Israel is acceptable. I am also sorry he didn't take the opportunity to set the record straight involving his criticism of Israel this week or to condemn the speaker of the parliament of Iraq and his vicious anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish diatribe and tirade earlier this week. Unfortunately, none of that was forthcoming.

If we are to take the Iraqi leadership seriously in condemnation of terror, they have to condemn terror wherever it rears its ugly head, against Iraq, against Israel, or against any other nation. Only then will I truly believe that they are democrats and care about democracy and really care about the war on terror.

IRAQ AND FREEDOM

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, this House in a joint session of Congress listened to the new Prime Minister of our ally, Iraq, earlier today. The Prime Minister outlined his plan for freedom and security for the Iraqi people and for a free, safe and secure Iraq.

As an ally, we in the United States have an obligation to see this through. We have an obligation to ensure freedom and democracy. However imperfect it may be, as freedom and democracy always is, we have an obligation to see that through in Iraq, today, tomorrow and for years to come.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that the United States, Israel and Iraq have the same mutual enemy, and those are Islamic extremists, in our country, in Israel, in Iraq and around the world, and we have to fight together for freedom today, freedom tomorrow, freedom forever.

BIG OIL HAS ANOTHER GREAT QUARTER WHILE THE CONSUMER IS GOUGED AT THE PUMP

(Mrs. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Big Oil has another great quarter while the consumers are gouged at the pumps.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers are already pouring in. All week, Big Oil and Gas will tout their profits during the second quarter. The real question now is, will they break the records of the first quarter, more than \$16 billion just for the Big Three.

B-P announced its profits earlier this week, bringing in \$6.1 billion during the second quarter. We will hear the rest of the numbers later this week.

Mr. Speaker, America can do better. We have the technology. We have the willpower. But we have to work together. It is basically Democrats that actually have the answers on what we can do to reduce oil prices in this country. This isn't short term. It's long term. We need to work together. We need to get this done.

Consumers at home are hurting. Middle-income families are hurting when you have expensive oil on Long Island where I live, \$3.29, it has been that way for quite a while, and that is only for the economy fuel. It is raising our fuel prices. It is raising everything. And they wonder why the economy, which is supposed to be, quote, doing well, our middle-income families are not. They are hurting.

SMALL BUSINESS

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to continue the tax relief and economic policies that have helped small businesses create new jobs and foster strong economic growth across our country. I have been pushing a five-point agenda to help small businesses succeed:

One, continue the tax cuts for small businesses, which we accomplished earlier this year by passing the Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act into law.

Two, we need to make health care costs more affordable for small businesses and their employees. The Senate, like the House, needs to pass legislation to create small business health plans that will lower their premiums by up to 30 percent.

Three, we need to level the playing field for small businesses. The Senate can help us do this by approving two of my bills that have been overwhelmingly passed in the House to help small businesses earn interest on their checking accounts and gain increased access to capital.

Four, the Senate, like the House, needs to vote to permanently end the death tax on small businesses and family farms.