

person in China gets paid about 67 cents an hour. Even illegals in this country won't work for that. And since the 1980s, China has been privileged to receive most-favored-nation treatment from the United States.

China is the second largest U.S. trading partner, but most of the billion dollars in trade goes to China. It's a one-way street. It's a free-trade street for China, and it's all for cheap, dangerous products made with cheap, sweatshop labor in China.

As the second largest U.S. trading partner, China must conform to the standards of safety that are required of American companies for the well-being of Americans. Even better, why don't American companies buy goods that are manufactured in the United States?

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, Chinese manufacturing companies are notorious polluters of their own environment.

It's time for a day of reckoning with cheap, dangerous communist Chinese products. We hear talk of free trade, but what we need is fair trade with China, something that's fair to American consumers. Americans should look to see if the products they buy are made in China. If so, they should ignore those products and look for an item made in the United States. What a novel idea.

And that's just the way it is.

REDEPLOY OUR TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday night, I will join many of my constituents at the 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards hosted by the Marin County Human Rights Commission in San Rafael, California.

Ten of my constituents, including four high school seniors, will receive awards for the many, many contributions they have made to our community, and I would like to name a few of them. Two doctors, Paul Cohen and Alicia Suski, will be honored for developing a partnership to provide medical and legal services to low-income residents. An educator, Whitney Hoyt, will be honored for protecting the rights of gay students. A high school senior, Joanna Sitzmann, will be recognized for her work with a therapeutic horseback riding program for people with disabilities. Another student, Morgan Green, will be cited for helping to raise money for the victims of the crisis in Darfur. And another high school senior, Allison Franklin, will be honored for working with disadvantaged youngsters, including those participating in the Marin Special Olympics.

I am really proud of these wonderful constituents, constituents who are serving others. I know there are millions of other Americans just like

them, and they can be found in every single congressional district. They represent the true face of America, the America that has compassion for the people of the world, who want the world to be a better place for all of us.

But today, the world has a very different picture of America, Mr. Speaker. The people of the world see us through the lens of the occupation of Iraq, Abu Ghraib, and Guantanamo. They hear about torture, waterboarding, and the reckless activities of the Blackwater military contracts.

In addition to the very real human rights issues that these problems raise, they have made it much harder for us to win the public relations battle against the terrorists. And in the long run, that public relations battle, along with other elements of so-called "soft power," are just as important, if not more important, than any military battle that we will fight in Iraq.

Even Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has recognized this. In a speech he gave 2 months ago, Secretary Gates said, and I quote, "One of the more important lessons of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is that military success is not sufficient to win. Economic development, institution building, and rule of law, promoting internal reconciliation, good governance, providing basic services to the people, and strategic communications are essential ingredients for long-term success." He also called for an increase in spending on the soft power components of national security. These include diplomacy, foreign assistance, and economic reconstruction and development.

I agree with Secretary Gates about all of this, but this appears to be one more example of our leaders not backing up their words with actions. This administration has relied solely upon military power to achieve its objectives. It hasn't believed in diplomacy in the first place, or of the other elements of soft power.

Our leaders think they can bomb and shoot their way to a more democratic and peaceful world, and they've been proven wrong over and over again. In their latest testimony before the House, our generals have told us that our occupation of Iraq may last until the year 2020. And even Secretary Gates has undermined his own lofty rhetoric about diplomacy by saying that a 50-year occupation would be just fine with him.

The only way to restore our moral leadership and our ability to influence events is to responsibly redeploy our troops out of Iraq. That would allow the regional and international diplomacy needed to end the conflict to begin. It is up to Congress to use its power of the purse to make this happen. The administration will never do it. Our leaders offer us high-minded speeches about the rule of law and diplomacy, but all they give us are bloodshed and occupation. And Mr. Speaker, it must stop.

INCREASED BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, a tragic incident took place along our Nation's southern border. On January 20, 2008, Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar was attempting to disable the vehicles of two suspected smugglers who entered this country illegally at the Southern California border. Agent Aguilar was struck and killed by one of the vehicles as it fled back to Mexico.

The tragic death of this border agent highlights the need for our government to get serious about defending our borders. As a key step in addressing this need, I recently introduced H.R. 4987, Defense By Date Certain Act. This legislation would mandate and fully fund the completion of a double-layered fence at designated locations on our southern border by June 30, 2009.

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The fence alone cannot solve the illegal immigration crises, but it is an important step in securing our borders and regaining control of our Nation's sovereignty. The chaos and violence along our southern border is putting the lives of U.S. citizens and law enforcement officers at risk. Our Nation can no longer allow smugglers to cross our borders illegally, ignore our laws, carry guns, intimidate, and even murder our border agents.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House are well aware, two other victims of violence on our southern border have now served more than a year in Federal prison. Agents Ramos and Compean entered Federal prison on January 17, 2007, and are serving 11- and 12-year prison sentences. These agents were convicted in March of 2006 for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. Ramos and Compean were doing their duty to protect the American people from an illegal alien drug smuggler.

There is bipartisan agreement among Members of Congress that the overzealous prosecution of these agents, and their excessive prison sentences, is a tremendous miscarriage of justice. While our calls for a pardon have gone unanswered, these agents continue to languish in Federal prison away from their families and loved ones.

Again I call on Chairman JOHN CONYERS to schedule a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee to fully examine this case. I am hopeful that the committee will review the justification for the indictment of these agents, which I sincerely believe have no justification, and how this U.S. Attorney's Office proceeded in this case.

Mr. Speaker, when those who bravely defend our borders are prosecuted, it sends a terrible message to illegal aliens and drug smugglers. Our southern borders are threatened, and it is

time for our government to start defending its citizens from those who will cross our borders illegally and threaten the American people.

MORPHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE, GOVERNANCE, AND PERSONAL AGGRANDIZEMENT IN A TANGLED WEB

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, while the U.S. economy retrenches, the front page of the Wall Street Journal today reports that former President Bill Clinton could “get a \$20 million payout from a politically sensitive partnership tie to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, made possible by his high profile business relationship with the investment firm of billionaire friend Ron Burkle.

The last time I looked, Dubai is not part of the United States and it is not a democracy.

As I read this article by John Emshwiller, I thought to myself, has any President in modern history, but for Jimmy Carter, not used the White House to cash in upon retirement? Further, has any modern President not used their White House connections to build themselves pyramid monuments upon leaving office in the form of presidential libraries where they milk their presidential contacts for millions and millions of dollars? How sad is it that former President George Bush and former President Bill Clinton took huge sums of money from foreign interests like Saudi Arabia to build their presidential libraries? Contrast this to our Nation’s Founders, who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors to the cause of freedom. Now it appears all is for sale.

Today’s story is but another example of where our Nation’s highest elected officials are morphing campaign finance, governance, and their own personal aggrandizement in a tangled web. It raises to the highest levels the issue of influence peddling and what was done during those White House years to yield such super human rewards.

I lament the condition in which we find our national politics. Until the American people hear and understand what is happening, nothing will change. It will only worsen. Look at the disgraceful sums of money being raised by presidential candidates in both political parties and, of course, waiting in the wings the latest batch of billionaire contenders who are just ready to put their oars in the water too.

One of America’s greatest President’s was John Quincy Adams. After John Quincy Adams left the presidency, he did not immediately head out onto the lecture circuit. He did not sell his services to a rich foreign power. He did not set out to enrich himself on the fame that he had acquired by virtue of his

service to the Nation. No, it was a different day and time. John Quincy Adams, after leaving the presidency, came back to Washington as a Member of this U.S. House of Representatives. To this day, he is the only President who did. He finished his life here, dying on the second floor of this Capitol. John Quincy Adams, instead of lining his own pockets, started his vaunted “second political career” by fighting against slave power. He made it the cause of his lifetime.

Just as money power dominates the national political preoccupation today, so slave power dominated political life in the United States in the first half of the 19th century. It was as deeply entrenched as the neoliberal model of international trade is today.

When Adams was President, Members from the Deep South had enacted a “gag rule” here in the People’s House so that anti-slavery petitions would be summarily rejected, as if this parliamentary maneuvering could stop the discussion about slavery and the slow march to justice.

Professor William Lee Miller has written about John Quincy Adams’s commitment to fighting slave power here in Congress, a battle that some historians have described as the “Pearl Harbor of the slave controversy.” John Quincy Adams refused to give up the fight until at last the Nation had heard the message of the petitioners: that slavery was inimical to the American ideal, an assault on the Constitution, and a stain on the Nation’s conscience.

America must cleanse our political system today of the stains that even Presidents of the United States create as they enrich themselves. The Wall Street Journal article describes how Mr. Clinton is a partner of the Yucaipa Global Partnership Fund, which raised several hundred billion dollars from a range of investors. Who were these investors? How did any of them relate to the policies of the Clinton administration? These private funds do not have to disclose their activities as a normal business; so how do the American people know?

The director of this fund is Mr. Ron Burkle, a major fundraiser and backer of the Clintons. To mix fundraising, undisclosed business interests, and the presidency is a combustible mix. The American people have a right to know.

The article goes on to relate how Rudy Giuliani’s consulting firm has interests in the government of Qatar. What are those interests? And how does he seek to personally benefit if elected President?

Mr. Speaker, the American people want Washington to clean up its act. As the presidential races proceed this year, isn’t it high time that the campaign finance reform question be a top one in all the debates? John Quincy Adams would not recognize the Republic as it stands today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, permission for a 5-minute Special Order speech for the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is vacated.

There was no objection.

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.)

HONORING HRANT DINK

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. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Turkish Armenian journalist Hrant Dink. One year ago, Hrant Dink was brutally gunned down outside his office in Istanbul, Turkey by a self-proclaimed Turkish nationalist. The world lost a great human rights advocate and his tragic death was an attack on democratic ideals and values.

Dink was first charged with treason for upholding an irrefutable historical fact about the Armenian Genocide. He was convicted for his writings in 2005 for violating article 301, a law that makes it a crime to “insult” the Turkish state. This law continues today to be used to persecute, prosecute, and incarcerate those who attempt to exercise their universal human right of freedom of speech.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey uses intimidation to deny its citizens their right to freedom of expression. It lobbies for its so-called rightful role in the international community and a place in the European Union. Yet it does not live up to democratic principles and standards.

Hrant Dink is not the only one who has suffered from the consequences of this Turkish penal law. Anyone who refers to the events of 1915 for what they were, genocide, is targeted within Turkey. In addition, our own country is seeing the effects of this denial as Turkey continues to oppose human rights legislation condemning the Armenian Genocide here in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I remain deeply concerned with Turkey’s failure to adopt standards and practices of both domestic and international conduct that would reverse and overturn the climate of intolerance, prejudice, and repression, as exemplified by article 301 of the Turkish penal code. It was this penal code that precipitated Mr. Dink’s murder.