question is: Will we have the right policies in place to best protect our country?

George Bush has waged an aggressive war on terror by going on the offense. He has taken the fight to the terrorists rather than waiting to fight them in our cities and on our streets.

On the other hand, his critics have demonstrated, I believe, a fundamental misunderstanding of the war on terror, saying that by going on the offense, America has caused the creation of more terrorists. The critics fail to articulate how they would deal with the gathering threat and, if we are attacked again, what would be their strong response.

Mr. Speaker, as we wage the war on terror and determine which policy can best keep America safe, this is at the heart of our national debate and an important part of the choice that all Americans will have to make on November 2.

THE SITUATION IN IRAQ IS GETTING WORSE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today the Washington Post quotes a former CIA official who said, ''People at the CIA are mad at the policy in Iraq because it's a disaster . . . The best we can hope for is a failed state hobbling along.'' But this view is widely shared in every branch of government. The State Department official warning to travelers from September 17, ''Iraq . . . remains very dangerous.''

An army officer recently back from Iraq said, ''It is getting worse . . . They have infiltrators conducting attacks in the Green Zone. That was not the case a year ago.'' A National Intelligence Estimate from July said that among the three possible scenarios for Iraq, the best case was merely ''tenuous stability.'' A study by Kroll Security International shows that the number of daily attacks has increased from 40 per day to around 70 each day. On Meet the Press, General Abizaid said, ''We will fight our way through the elections.'' ''Through,'' not up to the elections.

And this weekend, Secretary of State Colin Powell said, ''Yes,'' Iraq is ''getting worse.'' It is getting worse, but we do not know it from the President's comments who says and sees Iraq as a success.

The President of the proud of the fact that he does not read the newspapers. Can somebody please arrange a briefing for the President?

RECOGNIZING THE CENTURY COUNCIL AND NICKELODEON

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and recognize The Century Council and Nickelodeon for their creation of an innovative new program to educate middle-school-age students about the problems of underage drinking.

The Century Council is a national not-for-profit organization funded by America's leading distillers to develop and implement programs designed to stop drunk driving and underage drinking. Nickelodeon, the very popular children's TV network, has joined The Century Council on a creative multimedia program for middle-school-age kids and their parents called ''Ask, Listen and Learn: Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix.''

As a mother of two teenage daughters, I realize the critical role that parents play in the efforts to reduce and eliminate illegal underage drinking. I commend The Century Council and Nickelodeon for providing such a dynamic and valuable communications tool.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, since the Iraqi War started, nine soldiers have died in my district, all under the age of 30, and I attended some of their funerals.

As of to date, 1,051 servicemen and women have been killed in Iraq, and more than 7,500 have been injured.

Our servicemen and women are serving this Nation with honor and demonstrating great courage beyond our belief. Yet the actions of our President are not helping to ensure their safety and security. While their job is to fight, ours is to protect them.

The violence is not stopping. The streets are not safer. Our soldiers and Iraqi citizens continue to be at risk and are dying.

The U.S. had a plan to topple Baghdad, but it did not have a plan to adequately win and secure the peace. We need to secure the Nation. We need to equip it with the tools to protect and defend itself. And we need to establish peace.

What we need is new direction in Iraq. We need strong leadership and accountability, and we need to make sure that whatever this government provides in terms of funding is actually made available so that all our military on the ground has sufficient equipment and supplies that are needed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of a measure we will consider today in the Congress authored by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER). It is the District of Columbia Personal Protection Act, and there will be much sound and fury throughout the day and perhaps this evening on this measure.

The measure actually overturns local District of Columbia laws that ban the sale and possession of hand guns, ammunition and certain types of semiautomatic weapons to law-abiding citizens in the District of Columbia.

I believe that guns in the hands of law-abiding Americans actually save lives, and there will be arguments and statistics on both sides of that debate. But I rise very briefly to begin the argument, specifically to refute what I believe will be the false federalism argument that many will employ today, to say that the District of Columbia has the right to pass its own gun laws even when, in so doing, they ban and discriminate against the blood-bought right to keep and bear arms that is enshrined in the Constitution.

Let us be clear on this point and this definition of federalism: No State has the right to legislate away the blood-bought constitutional right of every law-abiding American to protect their person, their family and their liberty.

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CONSISTENTLY WRONG ON IRAQ

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President Bush brags about how consistent he has been in his policy on Iraq. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the President has been consistently wrong.

President Bush was wrong about weapons of mass destruction. He was wrong about any connection between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. He was wrong about not working to bring in our allies to join us in the war against Iraq. He was wrong about sending our troops into battle without the protective gear that they needed. He was wrong when he declared ''mission accomplished,'' and wrong again when he challenged terrorists to ''bring it on.'' Finally, He was wrong when he did not plan for the aftermath of the fall of Baghdad.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush has certainly been consistent about Iraq, but he has been consistently wrong.

INDONESIA HOLDS FIRST NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week Indonesians voted directly for the first time to elect their new president. The Charleston Post

and Courier reported this marked ''a milestone on the road to democracy for the world's most populous Muslim nation.'' Both competing candidates were pro-American in the global war on terror.

This historic election is another nail in the coffin of the lie that Muslim nations cannot become democracies. India, the world's largest democracy, has over 200 million Muslims. In Afghanistan, 10 million have registered to vote, despite threats from remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda. The same will happen in Iraq.

As Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said to the defeatists last week in this room, ''Above all, they risk underestimating the courage, determination of the Iraqi people to embrace democracy, peace and freedom, for the dreams of our families are the same as the families here in America and around the world.''

Freedom and democracy are on the march throughout the Muslim world, and they are the greatest threat to the dark plans of terrorists who want to destroy American families.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

PROVIDE ADEQUATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to this devastating hurricane season's effect on the Caribbean. I urge Members of this body to cosponsor H. Con. Res. 496, a bipartisan effort supporting adequate humanitarian assistance to our neighbors in the Caribbean.

Americans, especially Florida and Californians, know firsthand the suffering caused by natural disasters, hurricanes, fires, tornadoes and earthquakes. Four hurricanes in 5 weeks, over 1,700 dead, 441,000 individuals displaced. More than 15 Caribbean countries are devastated.

In Grenada, the schools will not open until 2005. The land is barren and countless homes are destroyed. Many other Caribbean countries are so focused on assisting their neighbors that they have not even had the time and opportunity to assess their own damage.

Economies are overwhelmed. The tourism industry just barely recovered from 9/11, and now more harsh blows. Primary crops, bananas, nutmeg and sugar, destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, we really do need to step up and lend a helping hand. We cannot sit back and wait as people suffer in Florida and in the Caribbean.

Please support H. Con. Res. 496. Again, this is a bipartisan effort to support humanitarian assistance to our neighbors in the Caribbean.

MARKING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, this year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party. Over a century and a half, from the abolition of slavery, to the enactment of women's suffrage, to the liberation of millions of people in the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Iraq, the Republican Party has been the most effective political organization in the history of the world in advancing the cause of freedom.

So that all of us can learn more about the achievements of this fundamentally American institution in its 105th anniversary year, the Republican Policy Committee has produced this 2005 Republican Freedom Calendar, each day recording a milestone Republican achievement in advancing the civil rights of every American.

This past Sunday, 144 years ago, Republicans honored suffragist leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony for their work in electing Republican candidates. Over Democratic opposition, Republicans in Congress enacted the women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. And even before voting for women was legalized, Susan B. Anthony cast a ballot, and when she was arrested for voting illegally, she bragged to the press, ''I voted the Republican ticket straight.''

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Republican Freedom Calendar is available on the Internet at policy.house.gov.

AMERICA'S PRIORITIES IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I see the Republicans have planned a very busy week. The House passed nearly three dozen bills last night, all without debate. That has to sounds impressive. The House unanimously passed legislation on everything from naming a post office to snake control. It is known as the suspension calendar. It means its Republicans have placed the House in suspended animation until after the election.

Does a post office need a name? Sure. But America needs affordable health care first, and is not getting it; America needs consumer confidence, and the Republicans are not providing that; and America needs a plan to deal with the chaos in Iraq. But forget that under this administration. That is why they are changing the story of why we went to Iraq in the first place.

America's priorities have been in suspended animation for 4 years. But the wake-up call is coming on the 2nd of November.

OPPOSITION TO RELAXING GUN CONTROL LAWS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have one question for those who want to strip D.C.'s elected Mayor and City Council of any ability to regulate firearms in our Nation's Capital: Are you insane?

It is unbelievable that the House Republican leadership would push this kind of a bill. We are spending billions of dollars trying to protect our Nation's Capital from terrorists because we have the highest concentration of potential terrorist targets in our Nation's Capital, and you want to arm every D.C. resident with every firearm imaginable, from handguns to Uzis to AK–47s, and enable them to walk around our streets to go into churches, theaters, schools and public buildings?

This is unbelievably irresponsible. I cannot believe that the Republican leadership would promote this kind of a bill, just to give the NRA the kind of vote that asserts its dominance over this House.

Last year, the District of Columbia confiscated 1,982 firearms from criminals. This year, so far 1,400 have been taken from criminals because it is illegal to carry a gun here. Virtually all of them would be able to carry around those firearms without any regulation if this bill was passed.

This is not the Wild West of the 19th Century. This is our Nation's Capital in the 21st Century. Please do the decent thing and defeat this radical affront to the citizens of our Nation's Capital.

ADMINISTRATION UNHINGED FROM REALITY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today we see an administration in denial, a denial of problems here at home and abroad.

Today's Washington Post says an increasing number of career professionals within our own national security agencies believe that the situation in Iraq is much worse than is being expressed in public by top administration officials. It says, ''The rebellion is deeper and more widespread than is being publicly acknowledged.''

These are not the words of ''pessimists and naysayers,'' as the President's spokesperson so glibly put it. These are not, as President Bush said last week, ''guesses.'' These are the findings of those fighting the Iraqi insurgency and studying at CIA, the State Department, and within the Army officer corps.

Yet the administration insists that, ''Freedom is on the march in Iraq.''