

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago, I heard my colleagues from both sides of the aisle express their grief over how the war has come home and visited families and loved ones within their district. In truth, this war is destroying the aspirations of people of both countries.

Today, the United States Congress is being visited by workers from Iraq: members of the Iraqi Federation of Labor and members of the Federation of Workers Councils and Unions of Iraq, all of whom were involved in challenging the regime of Saddam Hussein; all of whom stand very strongly in defense of workers' rights, human rights; all of whom are seeking peace; all of whom are seeking an end to the war in Iraq.

It is time for this Congress to put aside the partisan differences which have occurred over the war and to come together in a plan where we can unify to take steps to withdraw our troops from Iraq and to take steps to heal the breach which the war has created between America and the world community.

LINKING U.S. SUPPORT TO U.N. RESULTS

(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, as the largest financial contributor to the United Nations, the United States should be assured that U.N. programs are accountable, efficient, and results-oriented.

Unfortunately, we still have no guarantee that our contributions are used for valuable purposes. Although U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan has discussed reform of the United Nations for years, his words have rarely resulted in action. In 1995, two dozen U.S. staffers defrauded or squandered up to \$10 million in agency funds. Two years later, 16 U.N. employees were under investigation after siphoning off \$6 million during an 8-year period. Additionally, in 2003, a U.N. probe into corruption allegations found that one senior U.N. official improperly gave 11 contracts to his wife.

The Committee on International Relations chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), requires the U.N. to drastically reform or risk losing 50 percent of America's contributions to the U.N.-assessed budget. Actions speak louder than words; and if we link U.S. support to U.N. results, the U.N. will be more effective.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

DEMOCRATS OFFER BETTER APPROACH TO JOB CREATION

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as the middle class continues to feel squeezed by an economy that is creating few jobs, it is time that President Bush and the Republicans here in Congress admit that their economic policies are not working.

Democrats in the House have a plan that will lift the incomes of working families and bring the unemployment rate down. Instead, Republicans are passing legislation to meet the needs of their corporate special interest friends and the wealthy, not ordinary, Americans.

Legislative choices show values. The fact is, Democrats, historically, have a better record of creating jobs. After 5 years in office, President Bush has yet to create his first net job. At this same period, President Clinton had created 11.9 million jobs.

Oh, you can say the economy is fine, but honesty requires that you admit it is fine for the very wealthy.

You can blame people's problems on economic cycles or terrorist attacks or foreign influences, but excuses are not jobs.

The Democratic approach works and has worked historically.

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about men's health and the importance of screening and preventive care.

This week is National Men's Health Week, and there is no better way to observe it than to encourage men across America to take control of their health.

Mr. Speaker, it is disturbing to learn that women are 100 percent more likely to visit a doctor for preventive screenings than men. This puts our friends, husbands, fathers, and grandfathers at risk for a host of preventable and manageable diseases from colon cancer to diabetes.

In honor of Men's Health Week, I encourage all men to get the care they need. Modern medicine has provided us with previously unimaginable ways to protect and prevent illness, and we should use them to their fullest.

I encourage men to ask their doctors which screenings and tests should be part of their health care plan. From cardio evaluation to detect heart disease, to colonoscopies to check for colorectal cancer, to digital prostate exams and PSA blood tests, men should take their health seriously.

REPUBLICAN ABUSES OF POWER: SILENCING OPPOSITION TO PATRIOT ACT

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on the Judiciary chairman turned the lights off on democracy last Friday morning when he halted a hearing on the PATRIOT Act in which opposition voices were given time. After Friday's hearing, it was clear that the chairman does not like to hear from those that do not agree with his opinion; certainly, an abuse to the freedom of speech.

During the hearing, the chairman scolded both Democratic Members and panelists; and when he did not agree with a comment, he demanded panelists wrap it up. When he got really mad, he just gaveled the hearing to an end and stormed out of the room. What appalling behavior for a distinguished leader.

Then, as Democratic members tried to continue the hearing, the microphones in the room were turned off. When that did not silence my Democratic colleagues, the Republicans finally turned off the lights.

Mr. Speaker, some congressional Republicans are abusing their power over this House to silence any opposition to either them or to the Bush administration. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) should not only apologize to everyone who attended Friday's hearing, but to every Member of this House. That is simply not the way the people's House is supposed to work, and it is time this arrogance stops.

RECOGNIZING MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since congressional passage in 1994, Men's Health Week has brought much-needed attention to the health needs of American men.

Men's Health Week encourages employers, community service organizations, public health departments, and health providers to raise awareness of men's health needs and to support preventive health measures.

Annual checkups, especially for men over the age of 40, are perhaps the single most important factor in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

According to CDC, women are 100 percent more likely to get an annual physical exam than men. In addition to lower life expectancies than women, men are more likely to die of strokes, heart disease, cancer, and accidents. Yearly physicals have increased awareness of risks to men's health that will save lives and keep men healthy and active.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all men to take advantage of Men's Health Week and go and get a physical. Your health is worth it, and your family certainly will appreciate it.