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#### DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY USING FALSE CLAIMS TO SI- LENCE COLONEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for half the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening for this short Special Order to express my personal outrage regarding the treatment of some brave military personnel who simply are trying to tell the truth.

Madam Speaker, over the past 3 months, I have outlined for our colleagues evidence that came from military officers that we had knowledge of Mohammed Atta and al Qaeda prior to September 11 and the attack against us in New York City. This information came about from a top secret program known as "Able Danger" which was a program that was developed by Special Forces Command as a planning process to deal with al Qaeda cells.

The military officers involved with this program identified 5 specific cells around the world, one of which was a Brooklyn cell, and this Brooklyn cell, one year before 9/11; in fact, in January and February of 2000, actually identified Mohammed Atta, 3 of the other terrorists that were involved in the 9/11 attack, and identified this in a chart that was produced as a part of their planning process.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, these military officers have testified, and will testify under oath, that in September of 2000, one year before September 11, they made 3 attempts to transfer information regarding the Brooklyn cell and Mohammed Atta to the FBI. An FBI employee has again agreed to testify under oath that she arranged the 3 meetings and agreed to set up for the FBI the opportunity to receive this data. All 3 meetings were canceled by lawyers within the previous administration, the Clinton administration.

We still do not know who gave the ultimate order or why those meetings were canceled, but we do know that in September of 2000, attempts to transfer information regarding al Qaeda, the Brooklyn cell, and Mohammed Atta were thwarted.

This information was presented to the 9/11 Commission in an effort to provide a clear and concise analysis of what happened prior to 9/11. On 2 separate occasions, a Lieutenant Colonel from the Army, Anthony Shaffer and a commander from the Navy, Scott Philpott, offered to provide information to the 9/11 Commission that they, in fact, were involved with Able Danger and that they identified Mohammed Atta prior to 9/11.

Colonel Shaffer, who was promoted during the past year, during a time in

which his security clearance had been temporarily lifted by the Defense Intelligence Agency, has been the subject of gross and outrageous harassment. I have been on the Committee on Armed Services for 19 years, and my job as a member of that committee has been to support our military personnel when they are assigned overseas or when they are at home during their training and other operations. As I mentioned to Secretary Rumsfeld in a hearing last Thursday, a full committee hearing, I have supported every major reform that he has put forth over the past several years regarding our military, the way our military operates, and the way the Pentagon is organized.

Madam Speaker, Secretary Rumsfeld has repeatedly told us that his top priority is the morale and the welfare of our troops. The commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, both the recent and now the current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, repeatedly tell us their top priority is the protection of our military personnel in uniform. And now, we find out that Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Shaffer, a Bronze Star recipient, 23-year veteran of military intelligence, serving in Afghanistan, embedded with our troops in harm's way, has had gross distortions and absolute outrageous claims made against him publicly by the Defense Intelligence Agency as a way to silence him.

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Lieutenant Colonel Shaffer has been prohibited from talking to Members of Congress. He has been stopped from testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee in spite of the fact that five senators from both parties were present at a hearing 2 weeks ago. Lieutenant Shaffer was in the room. Lieutenant Colonel Shaffer was in the room, yet he was not permitted to testify. His lawyer, in fact, made statements for him.

But in an attempt to totally discredit Lieutenant Colonel Shaffer, in an attempt to try to diminish his credibility before the American people and the Congress, the Defense Intelligence Agency has resorted to a new set of lows in terms of the credibility of our American military. And no, Madam Speaker, I do not think this action by the Defense Intelligence Agency has been brought forward by uniformed military personnel. It has been brought forward by the bureaucrats, the sort of bureaucrats who linger from one administration to the other and who have the embarrassment of having to understand what Lieutenant Colonel Shaffer and commander Scott Philpott did in warning us, attempting to warn us about the 9/11 attacks.

The Defense Intelligence Agency, 1 day before Lieutenant Colonel Shaffer was to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee, permanently pulled his security clearance, and the reasons they gave, Madam Speaker, were outrageous. They are scandalous. They said that he had forwarded phone calls

on his cell phone while being deployed in Afghanistan for a total cost of approximately \$67. They said that he had received mileage and toll fees improperly for attending a military conference at Fort Dix, New Jersey, which anyone in this body would say he was eligible to attend. \$341. They said that he, in fact, received an award for which he was not entitled, even though his superior officers nominated him for that award. But in one of the most despicable acts I have ever seen a Federal agency involve itself in in 19 years, they said on the record that Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Shaffer stole pens from the U.S. government.

Now, what they did not say, Madam Speaker, was that Lieutenant Colonel Shaffer, when he was 15 or 16 years old, as the son of an officer assigned to one of our embassies, admitted to stealing some pens which he gave to some disadvantaged people. Now, clearly, when he was 15 or 16, he was not working for the military. He was not a military intelligence officer. He was yet to take his lie detector test for admission into that category, and he admitted all of this. But in this current effort to try to discredit Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Shaffer, the Defense Intelligence Agency went to the outrageous length of publicly acknowledging that Lieutenant Colonel Shaffer had stolen pens and failing to mention how old he was when the theft took place, that he publicly admitted himself before being employed by the military.

Madam Speaker, we have a major problem in America. Sandy Berger, our National Security Advisor, stole documents from the National Archives, stole documents and put them in his clothing and took them out because they would incriminate him and President Clinton about what they knew before 9/11. He stole them. He placed them inside of his coat, in his pants, in his shoes, and he took those documents out of the National Archives because he did not want the 9/11 Commission to see what was in there. When he was caught, and finally brought to justice, his security clearance was lifted for 3 years.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Shaffer simply told the truth and because Defense intelligence bureaucrats are unhappy about being embarrassed they have removed his security clearance permanently. Is that what America is about, Madam Speaker? Is it about protecting a national security advisor who steals classified documents from the archives of the United States about what happened before 9/11 and gets a 3-year lift of his clearance, and a uniformed military officer who simply tells the truth has his security clearance permanently lifted?

Madam Speaker, if we do not right this wrong that will send and is sending a signal to every uniformed officer in America, if you tell the truth and if that truth embarrasses a bureaucrat or a political appointee, you are more expendable than the civilian officer, and

that cannot stand. We must do better. Anthony Shaffer deserves justice.

#### TOM DELAY'S HOUSE OF SHAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity for us to just grab a few more minutes here and finish up, the 30-something working group that we have here, and we want to kind of end the conversation tonight talking a little bit about a recent periodical that we like to call *Newsweek*. It is about the power outage. And we have mentioned a couple of words here tonight, competence or lack thereof, and cronyism.

Now, we like, at the 30-something working group, to get third party validators. And here on the cover of *Newsweek*, GOP, a mounting crisis of competence and cronyism, which I think is exactly what we have been talking about here tonight.

Madam Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an article here, Tom DeLay's House of Shame, by Jonathan Alter.

Before yielding to the gentleman, I would like to just share a little bit a couple of the quotes. I want to share a couple of quotes from this article today or this week. This gentleman is saying, Mr. Alter is saying that historians will regard this as the single most corrupt decade in the long and colorful history of the House of Representatives. That is pretty sad. And that Congress has always had its share of extremists, but the DeLay era is the first time the fringe has ever been in charge. And when we talked about Katrina, we talked about trying to implement this extremist agenda, regardless of what the circumstances are, and using Katrina as an opportunity to implement this agenda. I want to just share one more quote before we open it up here of what then House majority leader Mr. DELAY said after the hurricanes, and I quote, that Katrina and Rita "introduced a valuable forum to promote the triumph of our ideas and solutions for government over the crumbling and outdated policies of the Democratic controlled Congress of past decades." The crumbling or the triumph of our ideas. Triumph of our ideas. I mean, let's just look at where we are right now. Triumph of the Republican ideas? What? Increased poverty? Stagnant wages? Health care going up by 15 to 20 percent a year? Pharmaceutical costs going up by 20 percent a year. What triumph of ideas?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Do not forget the deficit.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. A deficit, \$500 billion? Now that is not even factoring in the war, a war that we got ram-rodged into, lied into. Is that the great triumph of ideas?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, where are we getting the money from? Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We are borrowing it from China. We do not even have the money.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Saudi Arabia, too. Do not leave them out.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And how many years the majority said about the Democratic controlled Congress tax and spend, tax and spend, tax and spend. Well, the last 10 years and the last 5 years in particular, borrow and spend. We are borrowing the money from China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, a lot of people who do not have really friendly interests with the United States of America. And the problem is, we have got to pay interest on the money we are borrowing. Reckless fiscal policy, incompetence, corruption, cronyism, time and time and time again.

#### TOM DELAY'S HOUSE OF SHAME

(By Jonathan Alter)

A decade ago, I paid a call on Tom DeLay in his Ornate office in the Capitol. I had heard a rumor about him that I figured could not possibly be true. The rumor was that after the GOP took control of the House that Year, DeLay had begun keeping a little black book with the names of Washington lobbyists who wanted to come see him. If the lobbyists were not Republicans and contributors to his power base, they didn't get into "the people's House." DeLay not only confirmed the story, he showed me the book. His time was limited, DeLay explained with a genial smile. Why should he open his door to people who were not on the team?

Thus began what historians will regard as the single most corrupt decade in the long and colorful history of the House of Representatives. Come on, you say. How about all those years when congressmen accepted cash in the House chamber and then staggered onto the floor drunk? Yes, special interests have bought off members of Congress at least since Daniel Webster took his seat while on the payroll of a bank. And yes, Congress over the years has seen dozens of sex scandals and dozens of members brought low by financial improprieties. But never before has the leadership of the House been hijacked by a small band of extremists bent on building a ruthless shakedown machine, lining the pockets of their richest constituents and rolling back popular protections for ordinary people. These folks borrow like banana republics and spend like Tip O'Neill on speed.

I have no idea if DeLay has technically broken the law. What interests me is how this moderate, evenly divided nation came to be ruled on at least one side of Capitol Hill by a zealot. This is a man who calls the Environmental Protection Agency "the Gestapo of government" and favors repealing the Clean Air Act because "it's never been proven that air toxins are hazardous to people"; who insists repeatedly that judges on the other side of issues "need to be intimidated" and rejects the idea of a separation of church and state; who claims there are not parents trying to raise families on the minimum wage—that "fortunately, such families no not exist" (at least Newt Gingrich was intrigued by the challenges of poverty); who once said: "A woman can't take care of the family. It takes a man to provide structure." I could go on all day. Congress has always had its share of extremists. But the DeLay era is the first time the fringe has ever been in charge.

The only comparison to DeLay & Co. might be the Radical Republicans of the

1860s. But the 19th-century Radical Republican agenda was to integrate and remake the South. The 21st-century Radical Republican agenda is to enact the wish list of the tobacco and gun lobbies, repeal health and safety regulations and spend billions on shameless pork-barrel projects to keep the GOP at the trough. Another analogy is to Republican Speaker Joe Cannon, who ran the House with an iron fist a century ago. But Cannon had to contend with Progressive Republicans who eventually stripped him of his power. DeLay's ruling radical conservative clique remains united, at least for now.

Comparisons with fellow Texan Sam Rayburn fall short, too. Rayburn was respected on both sides of the aisle for his rock-solid integrity. He and most other House speakers carefully balanced their support for corporate interests like the oil depletion allowance with at least some sense of public good. And they had to share much of their power with committee chairmen. Today, seniority is much less important. Chairmen are term-limited (six years) or tossed if they displease DeLay. And this crowd views "the public interest" as strictly for liberal pantywaists.

How have they succeeded? A new book "Off Center: The Republican Revolution and the Erosion of American Democracy," by Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, explains how the GOP is simply better than the Democratic Party at the basic blocking and tackling of politics, including the exploitation of cultural and religious issues. The authors argue that even if DeLay goes down, the zealotry and corporate shilling will continue as long as the GOP controls the House. Consider DeLay's temporary replacement, Missouri Rep. Roy Blunt. The Washington Post reported last week that Blunt is respected by Republican members in part because he has "strong ties to the Washington lobbying community." That's a qualification for office?

The only reason the House hasn't done even more damage is that the Senate often sands down the most noxious ideas, making the bills merely bad, not disastrous. What next for the House of Shame? If DeLay's acquitted, he'll be back in power. If he's convicted, his protégés will continue his work. Reform efforts by fiscal conservatives determined to curb their borrow-and-spend colleagues are probably doomed. The only way to get rid of the termites eating away the people's House is to stamp them out at the next election.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I would be happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, and yet they are still, in the aftermath of Katrina, in the aftermath of Rita, with ballooning deficits and horrific corruption and cronyism, still talking about tax cuts, making the tax cuts permanent. They are still talking about budget reconciliation, which is Washington speak for cuts. They are still talking about not providing what people in this country, in the middle, in the middle, the average hardworking American needs.

You know, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is absolutely right. It is the fringe that has been governing this institution, and this country for the last 10 years. Most of us are mainstream. Most people consider themselves very middle of the road, moderate, not left, not right, just middle of the road, and they want the course to generally be steering in an almost straight path,