

company or something. It is not that. It is not something that reflects on personal judgment.

No, this is outing, Mr. Speaker, a clandestine CIA agent. That individual that goes in, and guess what? Guess what the agent's job was? To help us in finding out those countries that have weapons of mass destruction. To harm who? The United States of America. And because she was out, and now, you know, I am hearing that in the White House they are saying that the defense is going to be, well, you know, I have a lot of conversations in a day. I did not quite remember talking to a reporter about a CIA agent.

I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, because if that is something that you can forget, the time that you outed a CIA agent, and you forget it. You are like, oh, well, you know, I got coffee. Then I walked over here. You know, you do not just out a CIA agent.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is really hard to keep track of all of the lies.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. You cannot violate national security when you have a security clearance, hello, that the four of us have. I said the other night, if I wanted to, you know, for political gain, talk about the things that I know as a Member of the Armed Services Committee, talk about the things that I know as a Member of the Homeland Security Committee for political gain, that would be horrible and a crime.

And it took place. You know, if it was just politics, I mean, people can understand. But someone could have lost their life. We do not know yet. And now her cover has been blown. A whole front that the CIA has has been blown. And those individuals that she has relationships with have been blown, all because some folks thought it would be good for political gain to be reelected to the White House.

Now I am going to tell you something right now, ladies and gentlemen, that we cannot allow this activity to continue.

As we started talking, I was handed a piece of paper here, because I was incorrect. The Congress approval rating is at 31. At 31. So anyone that wants to come to the floor chest-beating and patting yourself on the back, talking about I am doing a great job, let me tell you something on both sides of the aisle, we have to step it up on our own leadership. We have to step it up on our leadership, and we have to do it together on behalf of Americans. We have to do it together on behalf of Americans, not Democrats, not Republicans, not independents, not the special interests, not the folks that showed up at the fund-raiser last night.

We have got to make sure that we represent the United States of America and the people that pay taxes. We were Federalized when we were elected. So if folks feel, oh, well, I am here or here, and I do not need to worry about that, you are a Member of the United States

Congress. You are a Member of the 109th Congress, and you have a responsibility to lead.

If you do not want to lead, I am going to tell you something, as sure my name is Congressman MEEK, I feel that the American people, Democrat, Republican, Independent alike, and even going back to what the gentleman was talking about, 224 years of individuals that were fiscally responsible, the Whig Party, okay, these individuals will rise up to make sure that we protect our country.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Do you know why? Because the kids that have to pay this debt, that \$8 trillion, they are not just Republican kids, they are not just Democratic kids, they are kids born in the United States of America.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Do you know what the tragedy of this is? Let us put aside for a moment indictments and a discussion of who might be indicted in the future or misconduct that violates criminal statutes.

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What is truly unfortunate here is that we have reached a point where there is a culture that exists here in Washington where if there is disagreement, if there is dissent that it is described as unpatriotic.

We have heard that I think earlier this evening on the floor, the inference being that if there is any dissent or disagreement, somehow motives can be inferred that that courageous individual, in my judgment, who speaks out in opposition is somehow unpatriotic.

There was an interesting article or column just recently by Jim Hoagland in The Washington Post where he said, Mr. President, he wrote a letter to President Bush, he said, Mr. President, would it not have been easier if you had just wrote a letter to the editor in response to the opinion piece that was produced by Mr. WILSON? Would that not have been welcomed by the American people, by Members of Congress?

But what has happened is no, let us design a plan to impugn that individual's integrity. Let us try to destroy that individual. Let us try to discredit him or her. That is not what democracy is about. In fact, today I read the White House had prepared a series of talking points attacking the former National Security Advisor, Brent Scowcroft, who recently went public in saying that the policies of this Bush administration as it relates to Iraq and the Middle East are a failure. They were preparing, according to Mr. Hoagland's column, talking points to attack him. We have got to get away from this politics of destruction and ad hominem attacks and questioning individuals's patriotism. That is not what we are about.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that they do not appear to have any interest in that. Yet again, the cronyism and the culture of corruption continues because

one would think that after Brownie they would have learned, who is still on the payroll.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. \$148,000 a year. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. \$148,000 a year. They may have learned and bring in additional people who are qualified. Yet, the President just picked the FDIC, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, chairman to run the gulf coast recovery. Let us peruse his qualification. He gave \$100,000 to President Bush's Presidential campaign.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Corruption. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. He has 30 years' experience in the financial services industry.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Cronyism. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It does not stop.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Incompetence. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Because they have no interest in it stopping.

We are approaching the end of our hour, and I want to yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and ask him to give out our Web site.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ETHERIDGE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for November 2.

Miss MCMORRIS (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today on account of business in her district.

Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today on account of family obligations.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. STUPAK) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. LEWIS of California, for 5 minutes, November 4.
Ms. HARRIS, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on November 1, 2005, he presented to the President of the United