

choices to be named later. He manages \$20 billion in assets, a \$3.9 billion annual budget and has successfully led this command through major transformational changes in force structure and in organization.

General Tanzi is a command pilot with over 4,055 hours in various types of planes. He has been honored with numerous awards and decorations, including two Distinguished Service Medals, two Legion of Merit Awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Medal.

General Tanzi is a native of New Hampshire and a graduate of Ohio State University. And although he has been stationed throughout the United States in his tenure in the military, we in Utah claim him and his family as our own. Since the year 1993 through 1999, when he was the Commander of the 419th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force in Utah, he has maintained a home in Utah only minutes away from that base.

We warmly welcome General Tanzi and his wife Deb and their new son, Anthony, back home to Utah on a permanent basis. For, indeed, the Air Reserve Command's loss will be my State's gain.

General Tanzi's contributions to our Nation's security, his years of sacrifice on behalf of others, his superior leadership have paved the way for Air Force Reserve excellence and innovations for generations to come.

MEAN-SPIRITED CUTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, earlier tonight, I was asked by a reporter if perhaps I and other Members were upset that this close to Christmas and on a weekend night that the House was still working and the year was dragging on. And I said, no, that did not bother me a bit; I would be happy to work all night and through the holidays. But what bothered me was the substance of what we are working on and why we are still here.

It can be distilled down to three simple reasons: We are here because the Republicans have a package of mean-spirited cuts they want to make just before Christmas. They want to hack \$14 billion out of student financial aid; billions of dollars out of food assistance, school lunch, food stamps; dump the Medicaid burden for underinsured or uninsured people back onto the States; cut foster care; and cut long-term care. And they say they have to do that because of the deficit.

But then they have bated it with tax cuts for the wealthy. That is the present they want to put under the tree before we leave. They want to push through, after the \$50 billion in cuts in student financial aid, food assistance, medical assistance, foster care and long-term care, they want to give tax cuts to the wealthiest among us.

Disproportionately, their cuts will go to people who invest for a living and earn over \$300,000 a year. They have a theory that values investors over wage and salary earners. It is called trickle-down economics. What they say is, if we enrich those people, those who earn over \$300,000 a year, particularly those who earn over \$1 million a year, if we give them more tax cuts and if we borrow money to give them tax cuts, they will trickle down on the rest of America and put people to work. They will float their yachts on a sea of red ink, and they will hire people to wash the yachts and cut the lawn, and therefore, America benefits.

Unfortunately, they would increase the deficit even after their mean-spirited cuts. So that is their pre-Christmas agenda: To stick it to the working families and the struggling and the young in America so that the wealthiest among us, who are already doing quite well, will have yet a merrier Christmas.

And then they have one last thing: They want to drill in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The entire Congress is being held captive by one Senator from Alaska. He is going to stick that on one bill or another before he lets Congress go home.

Substitute for a comprehensive energy policy for the United States of America, something that might free us from the oil companies and OPEC, something that might break through into the 21st century in terms of new technologies, they want to push through drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

So that is their troika: Cuts to Americans in need and Americans trying to make better of their lives; tax cuts for those who are already doing phenomenally well; and then, finally, yet another gift to the oil industry, on top of the subsidies they provided in the energy bill.

It is a pretty sad policy, but perhaps they will at least give a lump of coal to every American to put in the fireplace to try to keep warm because they cannot afford their natural gas or electric heat or their oil for their furnace this year.

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

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

UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE NATION BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon, 3 days ago, issued a directive which should be of great concern to any traditional conservative. The Washington Times on its front page reported it this way: "The Pentagon yesterday announced a landmark change in the use of combat troops, elevating stability missions, commonly called nation-building, to an equal status with major combat operations."

Conservatives used to be opposed to world government. Conservatives used to believe in the United States of America rather than the United States of the New World Order. Conservatives used to oppose turning the Department of Defense into the Department of Foreign Aid.

Probably well over half of what we have spent in Iraq is just pure foreign aid, building roads, power plants, water systems, new schools, railroads, ports, new prisons, training their police and military, and giving free medical care, among other things.

President Bush, when he campaigned in 2000, in many speeches came out strongly against nation-building. We have so many needs in this country, especially with our aging clean water and wastewater systems. We also have a national debt that will soon reach \$9 trillion. We simply cannot afford to build or rebuild nations all over this world.

Georgie Ann Geyer, the nationally syndicated columnist, wrote a couple years ago: "Critics of the war against Iraq have said since the beginning of the conflict that Americans, still strangely complacent about overseas wars being waged by a minority in their name, will eventually come to a point where they see they have to have a government that provides services at home or one that seeks empire across the globe."

But this is not primarily about Iraq. It is about whether we want a Department of Defense or a Department of Foreign Aid. We are not going to be able to pay all of our military pensions, civil service pensions, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the new prescription drug benefit, the 44 million private pensions we have guaranteed through the PBGC, in just a few years with money that means anything if we do not stop all this nation-building around the world.

I have nothing at all against anyone from any other country, but the first obligation of the U.S. Congress should be to the American people. The first thing that is said about anyone who opposes spending mega billions in other countries is that he must be an isolationist. But the isolationist charge means the person who says it is resorting to childish name-calling rather than a discussion on the merits.

Our interventionist foreign policy has caused great resentment and animosity against us all over the world.

There is another way, a better way than intervening in almost every major political, ethnic, religious or military dispute around the world. The middle way between isolation and intervention is to have trade and tourism, cultural and educational exchanges, help out during humanitarian crises, give technical advice by government agencies and try to be friends with all nations but maintain an enlightened neutrality on disputes that really are none of our business.

This new directive is more about money than it is about security. Like any gigantic bureaucracy, the Pentagon and its Defense contractors always want more money. One of the most common ways any government agency uses to get more money is by expanding its mission. You can never satisfy any government's appetite for money or land. They always want more.

President Eisenhower warned us many years ago of what he called the military-industrial complex. I have great respect for anyone who serves in the military. I believe in having a strong national defense. But I do not believe in the U.S. providing international defense, and it is certainly not a traditional conservative position to make those in our military the policemen of the world or take on the defense needs of the whole world.

And it is certainly not conservative, nor is it constitutional, for the U.S. to do nation-building all over the world, whether it is done by the Defense Department or any other department.

□ 2300

A NEW DAY FOR IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the initial reports of yesterday's Iraqi election all point to it having been a remarkable day for the Iraqi people. Although Iraq's security situation remains precarious and the country's economy and much of the infrastructure have yet to be repaired, the past year has seen important progress in the country's political development.

More than 11 million Iraqis went to the polls to cast their votes for a new parliament and a new future. Iraq Sunnis who boycotted the polling in January, turned out in force to ensure their voices would be heard in the new legislature. For weeks, Sunni imams had been imploring their congregants to vote and their calls were heeded. Election observers estimated that turnout was in excess of 70 percent nationwide and the turnout was matched by preelection polling that showed a high degree of enthusiasm for and optimism about the elections and what they mean for the future of Iraq.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of yesterday's voting was the absence

of violence. Across the country, only 52 attacks were recorded, and there were no mass casualty incidents. This stands in marked contrast to the January election when voters in polling stations were hit by more than 300 insurgent attacks.

Yesterday's relative calm was due to the men and women of our Armed Forces. Our troops and their commanders did a magnificent job over the past months to prepare the country for this crucial election. Even as we celebrate the success of the voting, we cannot overlook the incredible sacrifice of our military men and women. They have performed magnificently, but at an enormous cost.

While the election itself was a remarkable achievement, we, our coalition partners and the international community, must move quickly to ensure that Iraq's fragile, nascent democracy is able to flourish.

Two days ago I was invited to the White House, along with a number of my Democratic colleagues, to meet with the President and senior administration officials on preparations for the elections and next steps in Iraq. I appreciated the President's efforts to reach across the aisle for unity, and we had a far-reaching discussion on how best to move forward in Iraq. I hope that the President's recent willingness to engage with Members of Congress, and especially Democrats, augurs more consultations with the Hill on Iraq and the broader array of national security challenges that confront us.

Counting the votes will take days and perhaps weeks, given the sheer number of ballots cast for the more than 300 political parties that registered to compete in the election, as well as the bifurcated nature of allocating seats by province and nationwide.

As we move forward, I see a series of five steps as crucial to Iraq's future.

First, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, who has done a remarkable job in Kabul and in Baghdad, must work with the Iraqis to assemble a new government that will include the diverse array of Iraqi voices in order to maximize the legitimacy of the government in the eyes of the Iraqi people while minimizing the prospects for the dissolution of Iraq. The apparently strong showing by the secular Iraqi National List, headed by former interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, may be an early indicator that a broad-based government may be possible.

Second, we must work with a new parliament and help them execute the revisions to Iraq's Constitution that were promised in the days leading up to the October referendum. Constitutional changes that strengthen the power of the central government and ensure that the Sunnis are able to share in the nation's oil wealth will do much to allay the concerns of Iraq's Sunnis.

Third, we must ramp up our efforts to train and equip Iraq security forces

so that a significant portion of American forces can be redeployed from Iraq with the remainder of American troops adopting a much lower profile. This will allow us to better safeguard the lives of our troops even as we continue to act as the ultimate guarantor for the new Iraqi state.

Fourth, we must fracture the insurgency in order to weaken it. The Iraqi insurgents are made up of three distinctly different groups. The first group, the foreign jihadis, must be destroyed. The second group, which is made up of the hard-core Baathists, is also likely to fight to the bitter end. The third wing of the insurgency is composed of disaffected Sunnis who are motivated primarily by the loss of their status in Iraqi society.

Yesterday's election and the consolidation of a broad-based government should be instrumental in diminishing the threat from this faction.

Finally, we must redouble our efforts to reconstruct Iraq. While there has been some progress in restoring basic services and providing opportunities for Iraqis, there is much work yet to be done. This is an area where we should make a new effort to reach out to the international community and engage them in Iraq's future.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday's voting was a triumph for the Iraqi people, for the cause of democracy in the Arab world, and for our Armed Forces; but now we must act quickly and effectively to solidify these political gains.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3963. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for Long Island Sound.

H.R. 4508. An act to commend the outstanding efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina by members and employees of the Coast Guard, to provide temporary relief to certain persons affected by such hurricane with respect to certain laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution recognizing Commodore John Barry as the first flag officer of the United States Navy.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2520. An act to provide for the collection and maintenance of human cord blood stem cells for the treatment of patients and research, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program.

H.R. 3402. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested: