

CONCERNING THE APPROPRIATE
PLACEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY
REGARDING THE ATTACK ON
KHOBAR BARRACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I have served on the Subcommittee on National Security of the Committee on Appropriations. We seem to have gotten in a mode here to where we want to take the House floor and we want to blame the President for everything that happens all across the country.

I just want to bring back something that happened a few years ago when Ronald Reagan was President of the United States, and we lost 240 men in their sleep in Lebanon. We were in real secret negotiations and hearings upstairs in this Capitol, it was so secret. We had Navy people there, and we had these people, they had been informed there were three pickup loads of explosives in the area, and nobody acted on that. We did not blame President Reagan for being derelict of duty in that, because that was in Lebanon. We lost 240 Marines in Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, it just seems that everybody is in the mood here, anything that happens in the world is a problem of the President of the United States. Mr. Speaker, down here in the well yesterday, one day last week, the gentleman from Pennsylvania said if we lose one person, if we lose one person in Iraq, we are going to hold the President of the United States to blame for losing that one person. Mr. Speaker, to me this is going a little bit far.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HEFNER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague.

First of all, we did not mention the President today. We mentioned a hearing with the Secretary of Defense, and the fact that we do want to find out, as the Secretary has said, who was responsible.

What we are saying is we do not just want to go from the middle down, we want everyone in the chain of command to be looked at. In terms of what happened with President Reagan, I was not here then, so I cannot speak about what you all did when President Reagan was President.

Mr. HEFNER. Let me tell my colleague what we did. When the hearings got real tight, heads were going to roll, guess what we did? We invaded Grenada. All the focus of the hearings went to the invasion of Grenada. We did not hear any more into the investigation of the people who were derelict in Lebanon.

It seems to me when we are kind of getting in the area of politics where elections are coming up, that it is in vogue here to blame the administration or the Secretary for everything that happens on somebody else's for-

eign soil. We cannot tell the Saudis, they tell us to some extent, because if you remember, when we were trying to keep the Persian Gulf open a few years ago they would not even let us fuel our ships and planes there. The same for Kuwait.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HEFNER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just tell my friend, as a guy who went over to Lebanon shortly before the bombing and who stayed to work with Colonel Garrity, because I thought there were security problems, our problem is this, and not in terms of assigning blame, but you have two bombings. We see that truck bombs are the weapon of choice in the Middle East for terrorists. We had the Riyadh bombing 6 months ago. That showed us where we had public areas, public drive areas near troop concentrations, we were in danger of being hurt.

If this hearing today made people upset, if we got after people and we embarrassed them or made them feel uneasy, if that results in the Pentagon going back and saying, we will not have a troop concentration in the Middle East that is within 85 feet of a public road, then that is good.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I take back my time.

I am not questioning the fact we need to have hearings, but it seems to me we oversimplify when we say we are going to decide right here what is going to be the policy of the Saudis as far as allowing us to do things for the protection of our troops. To me this goes just beyond where foreign policy ought to end.

Everybody, I do not know of any person in this building that does not want to support our troops and see that they are not put in harm's way. But I just wanted to remind the Members that there was not a hue and outcry in this body when 240 of our fine Marines were killed in their sleep. And we did not personally hold President Reagan, as we should not have done, we did not personally hold him responsible for the deaths of these fine young men.

In this well the other day, the gentleman from Pennsylvania said, if we lose one person, we are going to hold the President of the United States, we are going to hold him personally to blame for losing these lives.

BIPARTISAN PROGRESS ON THE
USE OF FIREARMS IN LAW EN-
FORCEMENT

AMERICA'S PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, as we can see, nerves are taut here. One of the things I would just like to put that into context about is I have always thought it was a shame that we had

not done more on energy independence so we did not have to be in the Gulf anyway.

One of the problems we have is we are not defending great democracies. I have been very upset about how the Saudis treat our women in the military. They cannot drive, they cannot do this, they cannot do that. I think it is kind of ridiculous that when you are there to protect them, they then make it very difficult and put all sorts of restrictions on. Exactly the same thing had happened in Lebanon. I remember visiting Lebanon as a young member of the Committee on Armed Services, and saying this is an absolute nightmare. They said, this is the only place they will let us be.

That is one of the reasons I get so frustrated about burden-sharing. I keep figuring if we are there to help, we ought to be able to use our best military judgment and not have them say, no, no, we want you just over the horizon. We want you here to help, but we do not want you to be seen, and we do not want women out, or we do not want this or that.

Really, Mr. Speaker, what I came to talk about was something that we did today, I did today with the gentleman from New Mexico, Mr. STEVE SCHIFF. Mr. SCHIFF and I are probably about as far apart as you can be when you come to the issues of firearms. Yet today we had a joint press conference, because we do agree on one thing. I wish we could see more bipartisan types of progress such as this.

The gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF] and I have been working for the last 3 years trying to get money from the Defense Department to transfer it over so we could use it to better the world of law enforcement, to bring that up to speed. Today we had the people from Colt Manufacturing showing a prototype safe gun that was absolutely exciting, because it went from being a glint in our eye to a real thing, a real gun that people could see.

What does this gun do? Guess what, it only works for the owner. When you look at the numbers of law enforcement officers every year that are killed by their own gun, not to mention people who are guards in jail or guarding prisoners or on our border, we have all sorts of people. One of the major fears is your gun is stolen and used to kill you.

This gun would end that fear once and for all, because, as we demonstrated today, it would only go off for the owner. The technology is here and the gun was there, and we could show it. I think that is the type of thing I would hope Republicans and Democrats would work together on, so we could fight crime not only by beating our chest and saying who is the toughest, who is the meanest, who is the gruffest, but also who is the smartest. We have not fought crime as smartly as we should.

When you look at this gun and you look at the very high percentage of