

There is only one way we are going to get out of Iraq, and that is allow the Iraqi people to seize their own destiny, and that destiny may not be perfect according to what the Oval Office wants it to be, but this President has to recognize he cannot run Iraq from the Oval Office. The Iraqi people are going to have to fashion their own destiny.

That is why I believe we should call for early elections this summer if possible, as was done in the town of Tar and the village of Shatra, a town of 250,000. They have had elections. They have done it using their ration cards. In these towns, they have already had elections. You bring in your ration card, you stamp it when there is a vote, and you pick who you think should be in charge of your destiny.

The Iraqis need to get involved in their country's future. Right now they are dependent on us for everything. They are dependent on us to do all of the dying and spending. We need Iraqis to grasp their own destiny, and the best way to do it is through elections. Those elections may not be as good as the one in Florida in 2000, but it would be a lot better than us picking the people that we are going to shove down the Iraqi's throats in this bizarre situation.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, it was just about a year ago, just about this time that the first congressional delegation under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) went into Baghdad from the Baghdad Airport up Kirkuk, the first opportunity that Members of Congress had to actually meet face to face in Baghdad itself with General Garner and Ambassador Bremer. We got into Baghdad the same day, or within 24 hours or so of the time Ambassador Bremer was replacing or complementing the service of General Garner.

I can tell the gentleman because I believe it was the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) who mentioned that General Garner had some ideas about what needed to be done vis-à-vis reconstruction. I can affirm to the gentleman based on his suggestion which he just made about elections that General Garner felt very strongly at that time that councils of one kind and another should be allowed to be set up, that we could go to the Iraqi people

and trust that they would put these together with a minimum of structure, if you will, from the United States. That is to say we could help provide the logistical capacity to help conduct the elections, but he felt they should move forward expeditiously.

And I can tell you his suggestions were made in a context in which he was shoved laterally just about as fast as he could go. I think we are going to find General Garner, who was kind of dismissed as someone who did not quite understand what was going on, from the point of view of history will be shown as having a clear idea of what needed to be done.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, the history of this administration is anyone who questions is shoved aside. General Shinseki said we would need hundreds of thousands of troops. He was literally ridiculed by the Secretary of Defense and others.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. He was rebuked publicly.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Absolutely, because you do not question these folks. They seem to know everything.

What we are finding out is that their understanding is so immature that they are almost child-like in their fantasies. It is almost like a make-believe. They want the world to be a certain way, and so they just assume it is; and then who pays the price? The American people pay the price, the families of our soldiers and the soldiers pay the price.

If I can say something about the need to come up with a plan as the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) and the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) have suggested. The papers reported today that the troop levels that we are going to have in Iraq will stay at about 135,000 throughout 2005. I submit that is just the beginning. It is going to be 2005, 2006, 2007, we know not when this is going to come to an end.

This is my prediction. My prediction is this: If we do not change our policies, if we do not come up with a plan to extricate ourselves honorably from that situation, we are going to find ourselves facing the strong possibility of a military draft and the moms and dads in this country who may feel very detached from this war right now be-

cause they have a 13 or 14 or 15-year-old son or daughter, and they do not think it is going to touch them, we cannot sustain our military needs around the world and continue to do what we are doing in Iraq without the possibility, I think the strong possibility of a military draft.

If we have a military draft, I do not think we will have those exemptions that we had when I and Vice President CHENEY were draft age. I think every person of draft age will be subjected to it. I hold that out not as a threat, but I think it is realistic. We have National Guard persons and Reservists over there, and they are being extended beyond the normal time of service. We cannot continue this for years and years and years into the future.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, the indication today was from the Department of Defense that Reservists and National Guard can look forward to 16,000 more being called up in the next year to supplement those already in service.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, meanwhile, what is happening in terms of the war on terror. We are talking about Iraq, and yet all over the world, murky, small, nebulous cells of fundamental Islamics who hate America are being spawned.

Mr. Speaker, maybe tomorrow if we have some time we will come back and do a wrap-up. Again, I thank my colleagues for this installment of Iraq watch.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). The Chair reminds all Members that it is not in order in debate to refer to Senators except as provided in clause 1, rule XVII.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

### NOTICE

***Incomplete record of House proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.***

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7953. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Ac-

quisition Regulation Supplement; Buy-to-Budget Acquisition of End Items [DFARS Case 2002-D036] received April 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7954. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Multiyear

Contracting Authority Revisions [DFARS Case 2002-D041] received April 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7955. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract