

Rumsfeld from office for the good of our nation.

Sincerely,

SHEILA JACKSON-LEE,
Member of Congress.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with Mother's Day quickly approaching, I want to first thank all of the mothers and wish them a happy Mother's Day and thank them for what they do to make America the great place that it is. I want to thank in particular the American gold star mothers for their sacrifice and for the sacrifice of their children by answering the call of duty to their country.

Let me be clear: I support our troops 100 percent. I would like to honor our brave troops, all the military families and all that they do and have sacrificed for our Nation. I want to emphasize that I do not want our troops to be the scapegoats for this administration's failed policies. What is going on in Iraq right now is just another example of this failed administration policy.

And where is the leadership on this? Where is the President? This administration is once again missing in action. MIA. At this exact moment, with all of the uprising in Iraq, our troops are being placed in the most dangerous position. And although I pledge to do everything within my power as an elected official to ensure that our servicemen and women have the equipment and resources they need to carry out their mission, I find it disturbing, in fact, misleading that President Bush continues to hide the truth about Iraq from the American people.

In fact, up until yesterday, the administration was saying that another supplemental appropriation request would be unnecessary until after, by the way, November elections. To me, however, it seemed more than likely that this administration knew all along that they were going to need additional funding. Unfortunately, this new request of \$25 billion in supplemental spending for Iraq is just another example of the administration's pattern of covering up the facts and refusing to share information with the American people. Although the American public demands to know the truth about the cost of the war, time and time again the administration has denied them the opportunity to get the full story. Moreover, the Republican leadership in Congress refuses to fulfill its constitutional obligation to act as a check and balance on the executive branch.

With this \$25 billion, our country's taxpayers will be forced to spend over \$200 billion for this war. How much more will we need in the future? No one knows because the administration does not tell us anything. I would like

to say contrary to the administration's talk about how they pass measures like this to provide for the troops, in the last \$87 billion supplemental, the Bush administration never even requested sufficient funds for body armor, Humvees, and dozens of other badly needed supplies that the troops need over there for their survival. These items were only included in the package because it was stuck in in this Congress. Not this administration. The Congress put those supplies in for the troops.

In closing, we need to be included in the strategy. The President is asking for another \$25 billion. What I am requesting from them is some transparency. I am requesting a broader, inclusive strategy. We are three branches of government, not a dictatorship. America needs a plan for Iraq, Mr. President, one that does not involve hundreds more American troops going home in body bags.

In November, the American people will have their say. Do not forget the 2000 election because it does matter who is in charge.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman for what she has said. I want to join her in her salute to mothers with a happy Mother's Day, but also let me say that my heart goes out to mothers who have lost children in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. I thank the gentlewoman for acknowledging them. I acknowledge my mom, Ivalita Jackson, at this time. I thank the gentlewoman so much and happy Mother's Day to her.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers.

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CALLING FOR RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY RUMSFELD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to address the U.S. House of Representatives this evening and also the American people.

This hour every week the Congressional Black Caucus comes together to speak to the people of the United States about issues that are facing our country, how we can play offense in certain areas to make sure that we stay a vital and sovereign country. But today I must say it is a very difficult day to stand here in this House of Representatives and be able to share with the American people that we have grave issues with the leadership of the Bush administration as it relates to the handling of what has happened to Iraqi prisoners in our custody.

It is appropriate to say there will be investigations that will be conducted. It is appropriate to say that there are future courts martial that will take place and individuals will pay on the front line; but it is very difficult for us to continue, and when I say us, I would mainly want to say the majority party of this House, and for the majority leaders of this House to look in the face of something very wrong, very much mishandled in this country as it relates to the abuse of these prisoners.

I will say this is a very emotional thing for me due to the fact that I have had more than four people in my district die in Iraq. Yes, I commend the troops for their service. Yes, every day on the Committee on Armed Services I make sure that we do what we have to do to make sure that they have the equipment that they need to protect themselves, to make sure that Reservists that signed up to defend their country if need be, that they are able to make ends meet.

We commend our troops every day. We appreciate their patriotism. We have over 120,000 troops in the Middle East, not even counting the individuals that are providing civilian services and contract services throughout the world.

But I must say that Secretary Rumsfeld, with him having the number one job at the Pentagon and being the Secretary, should resign from the Department of Defense. The reason we are calling for his resignation is not because he happens to be a part of the Republican administration or we disagree with Secretary Rumsfeld with his strategy towards the war. It is to save American lives. It is just that simple.

American troops will be terrorized even more now in the Middle East than they have been over recent weeks and days due to the fact of the humiliation of Iraqis and pictures that we will never live down. The Iraqi people will never live it down, the Arab world will never live it down because their pictures are all over the Internet, The Washington Post, CNN, any network Web site. You can definitely pick them up by just picking up the New York Times. The Washington Post today has a picture of one of our soldiers with an Iraqi prisoner on a dog chain.

We all condemn these acts. There is nothing wrong with condemning them, but there is something fundamentally wrong for the President of the United States not to be able to say, I am sorry or someone in my administration, or I was wrong. I will share with you as a Member of Congress and somebody who has been elected for 10 years, there are days I have to admit that I am wrong. There are days that publicly I have to say that I made a mistake. There are certainly days I have to say I am sorry, to not even my constituents when I make a mistake, but also to the American people.

But I will say, this is not the time to shield the administration, the majority