

income tax rate bracket, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4279, PROVIDING FOR DISPOSITION OF UNUSED HEALTH BENEFITS IN CAFETERIA PLANS AND FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS; H.R. 4280, HEALTH EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE, LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE (HEALTH) ACT OF 2004; AND H.R. 4281, SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2004

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-484) on the resolution (H. Res. 638) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4279) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements; for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4280) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system; and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4281) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

A FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, in response to the gentleman who spoke earlier in the well about casting aspersions on Donald Rumsfeld and others in the Bush administration, I will not cast aspersions. I called for his resignation earlier; and if I have time at the end, I will go into those again.

But I am going to read from the *Army Times*, not exactly a bastion of Democrats or liberalism.

“Editorial: A Failure of Leadership At the Highest Levels.

“Around the halls of the Pentagon, a term of caustic derision has emerged for the enlisted soldiers at the heart of the furor over the Abu Ghraib prison scandal: The six morons who lost the war.

“Indeed, damage done to the U.S. military and the nation as a whole by the horrifying photographs of U.S. soldiers abusing Iraqi detainees at the notorious prison is incalculable.

“But the folks at the Pentagon are talking about the wrong morons.

“There is no excuse for the behavior displayed by soldiers in the now infamous pictures, and an even more damn-

ing report by Major General Antonio Taguba. Every soldier involved should be ashamed.

“But while responsibility begins with the six soldiers facing criminal charges, it extends all the way up the chain of command, to the highest reaches of the military hierarchy and its civilian leadership.

“The entire affair is a failure of leadership from start to finish. From the moment they are captured, prisoners are hooded, shackled and isolated. The message to the troops: anything goes.

“In addition to the scores of prisoners who were humiliated and demeaned, at least 14 have died in custody in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Army has ruled at least two of these homicides. This is not the way a free people keeps its captives or wins the hearts and minds of a suspicious world.

“How tragically ironic that the American military, which was welcomed to Baghdad by the euphoric Iraqi people a year ago as a liberating force and ended 30 years of tyranny, would today stand guilty of dehumanizing torture in the same Abu Ghraib prison used by Saddam Hussein’s henchmen.

“One can only wonder why the prison wasn’t razed in the wake of the invasion as a symbolic stake through the heart of the Baathist regime.

“Army commanders in Iraq bear responsibilities for running a prison where there was no legal advisor to the commander, no ultimate responsibility taken for the care and treatment of the prisoners.

“General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, also shares in the shame. Myers asked ‘60 Minutes II’ to hold off reporting news of the scandal because it could put U.S. troops at risk. But when the report was aired, a week later, Myers still hadn’t read Taguba’s report, which had been completed in March; Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld also failed to read the report until after the scandal broke in the media.

“But then, of course, it was too late.

“Myers, Rumsfeld and their staffs failed to recognize the impact the scandal would have, not only in the United States, but around the world.

“If their staffs failed to alert Myers and Rumsfeld, shame on them. But shame, too, on the chairman and Secretary, who failed to inform even President Bush.

“He was left to learn of the explosive scandal from media reports instead of from his own military leaders.

“On the battlefield, Myers and Rumsfeld’s errors would be called lack of situational awareness, a failure that amounts to professional negligence.

“To date, the Army has moved to court-martial the six soldiers suspected of abusing Iraqi detainees and has reprimanded six others.

“Brigadier General Karpinski, who commanded the MP brigade that ran Abu Ghraib, has received a letter of admonishment and also faces possible disciplinary action.

“That is good, but not enough.

“This was not just a failure of leadership at the local command level. This was a failure that ran straight to the top. Accountability here is essential, even if that means relieving top leaders from duty in a time of war.”

That is from the *Army Times*, the May 17, 2004, issue.

I called earlier for Secretary Rumsfeld’s resignation, as had others, because of the jiggered intelligence about the weapons of mass destruction and the so-called links that did not exist with terrorist groups with this regime, the fact that they ignored intelligence reports and plans drawn up by the State Department, and concerns about post-war occupation of Iraq, about the number of troops necessary to prevent looting, the downward spiral that could begin with looting, the fact that the troops did not have body armor, armored Humvees.

That is all because they were not ordered, not because there was not enough money. They were not ordered. Rumsfeld did not think they would need them, in his arrogance.

And today he talks about troops as fungible, and he reigns over a Defense Department that has wasted billions, while the troops are lacking basics. And he is the guy at whose desk the buck stops when prisoners are abused, as says the *Army Times*, not just a progressive Democrat from Oregon.

WHAT AMERICA HAS ACCOMPLISHED

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, we all demonstrated our righteous indignation over what took place in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, and we are horrified by it. But I would like to take just a few minutes to share the transcript of the Fox News Sunday program hosted by Chris Wallace, in which he talked about the positive accomplishments.

He said on Sunday, “As many of you may know, we thought the ABC News program, ‘Nightline,’ made a mistake last week, listing all the brave men and women who died in Iraq but without providing the context of what they died for. So we have said that we would put together our own tribute, our own list of what these brave men and women have built in Iraq.

“A couple of points before we begin. Some of you have written saying that we’re pushing the White House agenda. As you saw in the last segment, there are plenty of hard questions to ask about the Bush administration’s policy in Iraq, and we will keep asking them.

“There were also times this week when you couldn’t help but wonder about putting on the good news from Iraq, as we saw those ugly pictures from the Abu Gharib prison. But the more we thought about it, what better