

head of the CIA's counterterrorism center.

□ 2350

Mike Shuster reports on NPR that Iraq's contacts with bin Laden go back some years to at least 1994 when, according to one U.S. Government source, Hijazi met with him when bin Laden lived in Sudan. According to Cannistraro, Iraq invited bin Laden to live in Baghdad to be nearer to potential targets of terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Some experts believed bin Laden might be tempted to live in Iraq because of his reported desire to obtain chemical or biological weapons. CIA Director George Tenet referred to that in recent testimony before the Senate Committee on Armed Services, when he said bin Laden was planning additional attacks on American targets.

Mr. Speaker, the news media has had it correct in the past. I earnestly hope that they will return to the truthful reporting of the past and give this 9/11 report the hearing in front of the American people that it deserves. The American people need to know the truth, and the news media needs to be certain that the American people should and will know the truth, whether or not it comes from them.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would begin my wrap up comments by saying that Mr. Berger's removing of documents from the archives absolutely appears to have been criminal contact. I would recommend that this body and all other bodies responsible look into these sorts of illegal activities, to bring this to the highest level of examination.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that Mr. Berger wanted to take documents, some of which he has not returned, some of which supposedly have been destroyed. Mr. Berger needs to be held accountable for the illegal activities that he conducted while he was working with the Kerry campaign. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Kerry campaign needs to also be very straightforward with the American people about their association with Mr. Berger.

Mr. Speaker, I would offer one last time to yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding.

I would just like to conclude with an observation and a question. When we last participated in special orders, I asked the question about where is the opposition's plan for dealing with terrorism? Where is their plan for reconstructing Iraq? Where is their plan essentially to protect the national security of the United States, whether they would delegate it to the United Nations or keep it where it remains, here in the bosom of the sovereign people?

Well, I got kind of an answer, and I guess maybe this is what passes for planning these days, it seems to me more a statement of the obvious, that part of the opposition's plan was that

they would, with sufficient evidence, preemptively take out terrorists.

Well, I am glad that they concur with part of the President's plan. But that is not necessarily the in-depth approach that we need at the present time. Maybe the forthcoming week will show us more.

My observation along those lines is perhaps more of a frustration, that many people today are saying that America needs international support if we are to stand with the Iraqi people. We all know we would enjoy international support. But what I find galling is they will then turn around and say they are most capable of building the international support for the coalition to help reshape Iraq and help defend the United States. But, in the process of doing that, they have done something very interesting, is that they have denigrated as coerced, as distorted, as bribed, quote-unquote, the allies we have abroad as part of our coalition whose children, whose young men and women, are fighting beside our soldiers in Iraq and who are dying.

Now, I am a liberal arts guy, I was not a math guy, but it seems to me that if you attack and denigrate your own allies, it is very difficult through subtraction to build a larger coalition, especially when one is going to rely on people who have adversarially tried to undermine the United States' effort and our coalition partners' efforts in Iraq. I am thinking of many people in the United Nations who during the Oil For Food scandal were not necessarily in the best position to tell Saddam Hussein, who they were in league with and making money off of, to try to follow the resolutions they passed regarding weapons of mass destruction.

So I would just ask people to consider whether someone may or may not hypothetically be fit to be the Commander-in-Chief of the United States who, during a time of war, denigrates our allies and courts our adversaries. There is no simpler way to put that, because that is absolutely true. Ask yourself that question.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank you for your tolerance in allowing us to speak tonight about this very important subject, that of understanding the tie between Iraq, al Qaeda and the international war on terror. It is the most significant thing that this generation faces. We are either going to leave the world more safe, or we can leave the world without freedom.

Mr. Speaker, it is up to this body, it is up to this government, it is up to this President, and it is up to the American people. We must decide. We are going to decide this year which way we are going to pursue this particular war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, I would request humbly that all of the citizens, all of the people throughout this country, and especially the people in this body, would give that discussion their fullest attention and arrive at decisions, so we can

explain to the next generation that we took the responsibility and handled that responsibility wisely.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KIRK (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 12:00 p.m. on account of traveling with the President to his district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HERSETH, for 5 minutes, today.
(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HENSARLING) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BOEHLERT, for 5 minutes, today.
(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2249. An act to amend the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to provide for emergency food and shelter; to the Committee on Financial Services.

S. 2724. An act to amend section 33(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(a)) to clarify that the National Veterans Business Development Corporation is a private entity; to the Committee on Small Business.

S. Con. Res. 130. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Supreme Court of the United States should act expeditiously to resolve the confusion and inconsistency in the Federal criminal justice system caused by its decision in *Blakely v. Washington*, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1914. An act to provide for the issuance of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement.