

recordings, have not yet been translated. Now potentially valuable terrorism-related recordings means languages associated with terrorism, 120,000 hours not even looked at.

A computer, several computers, supposedly systematically erased some of al Qaeda's recordings. We are erasing them before we even look at them. There is 500,000 hours for all languages not yet translated. That is 30 percent, and 20 percent of the total of the 120,000 hours of potentially valuable terrorism-related recordings.

The rule at the FBI is that audio recordings related to al Qaeda must be reviewed in 12 hours. We obviously learned from what happened on September 10 and September 11 and made this rule that within 12 hours we want all of this translated. The fact of the matter is after the IG's report, 36 percent of al Qaeda recordings were not translated within 12 hours. In fact, there are 50 cases where we missed the deadline of translation by a month.

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Why is this important? Obviously because of what we learned on September 10. This President and this Congress says that the central battle, the central front on the war on terrorism was Iraq, and we are stuck in a quagmire with over 1,000 dead soldiers, thousands of wounded soldiers, thousands of dead Iraqis, innocent Iraqis. But another component of this major war on terror was that we were going to overhaul governmental translation capabilities and we have not done it. Those of us who did not think it was a good idea to go to war were saying spend \$200 billion securing our ports, securing our airports, making sure we check the cargo that is going in the planes, make sure we hire enough linguists, make sure we are translating all of these tapes. And we are not doing the job in the United States of America.

This is not brain surgery. They are communicating with each other over faxes, e-mails, telephone conversations, cell phones. Why would we not hire enough FBI agents to figure out what they are saying? Because this President had to go to war. This was not glamorous enough for this President, in the trenches, doing what it takes, day by day by day. One hundred twenty thousand hours of tapes that were not even translated. We spent \$48 million trying to increase the number of people we hired, and we only hired 300 more, but we have \$1.3 billion spent every week in Iraq. Our priorities are screwed up.

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

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### SMART SECURITY AND IRAQ

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, all of us who have listened to the suspension debates just before the Special Orders have to acknowledge that there are not nearly enough post offices in this country to honor all of those who have fallen as heroes in Iraq. We have to do something about that. In fact, when it comes to Iraq, the White House does not seem to know which way is up. Instead of relying on facts and truth, the Bush administration has two-timed the American people by relying on doublespeak, innuendos and, worst of all, bald-faced lies.

Last week, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that Iraq's elections will occur in January of 2005 regardless of what happens on the ground there. Even if half of Iraq's provinces are under the control of insurgents, preventing Iraqis from getting to the polls, elections will still take place. Secretary Rumsfeld validated this type of sham election by saying that, and I quote him, no election is perfect. Does that mean he would endorse an American Presidential election if only 25 of 50 States were able to participate? Then again, perhaps that is exactly what this administration would endorse.

Subsequent to Secretary Rumsfeld's remarks, Secretary of State Colin Powell had to slow down the administration's gears regarding the election issue, stating that the country must be secure for elections to take place. On ABC's "This Week" program, Secretary Powell also stated that, "Yes, it's getting worse in Iraq. We have seen an increase in anti-Americanism in the Muslim world."

Getting worse in Iraq? That is one of the biggest understatements yet from the administration that specializes in understatements. During the past 2 weeks, 29 United States soldiers and at least 250 Iraqis have been killed, not to even mention how many of our troops have been severely wounded. U.S. forces now face 70 attacks by insurgents daily. That is up from 40 to 50 hostile incidents that occurred each

day before the U.S. transferred authority to Iraq's interim government.

Contrast Secretary Powell's comments about Iraq with the unnecessarily rosy statements given by President Bush and his mouthpiece in Iraq, interim Iraqi President Ayad Allawi. Despite a disturbing wave of violence in the past several weeks, our President recently stated that Iraq is showing signs of steady progress. He has also made the outrageous claim that only a relative few of the 25 million Iraqis are trying to stop the march of freedom. In fact, there are thousands of insurgents fighting the American forces in Iraq and there are likely many, many more thousands who are sympathetic to the insurgency.

Nobody should be surprised by the Bush administration's doublespeak on this issue, because the White House has actually gotten quite good at lying directly to the American people while somehow managing to keep a straight face.

President Bush delivers only good news, like declaring the mission accomplished aboard a giant Navy ship. He paints an optimistic picture of Iraq, saying that the violence is decreasing in scope and intensity. Then the White House dispatches someone like Colin Powell to deliver the truth that Iraq is actually still mired in chaos and violence and that anti-Americanism is on the rise. It amounts to nothing less than an institutionalized method of a White House that speaks out of both sides of its mouth, telling lies to the American people. Lies instead of truth, in spite of the deaths of more than 1,000 U.S. soldiers, at least 13,000 innocent Iraqi civilians, and let us not forget about the more than 7,000 gravely wounded U.S. troops who have lost arms and legs and an inner peace they may never recover. I wonder if these individuals would agree with President Bush's assessment of steady progress in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be a better way of handling the quagmire in Iraq. That is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for sensible, multilateral, American response to terrorism. If we had been following the SMART security, we would not be in Iraq in the first place.

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

(Mr. DICKS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)