

idea. No idea of how much money her State has spent? How can we trust this government with our money when it cannot account for its own?

We have limited resources. This is the American taxpayers' money. We need to spend it prudently and wisely. I ask for caution in spending American taxpayer dollars.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CENTERED IN COLOMBIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-61)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on October 20, 2004 (69 Fed. Reg. 61733).

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressure on significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property and interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons and by depriving them of access to the U.S. market and financial system.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 19, 2005.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how to get to the White House, but maybe you do. Could you please tell the President they need some cultural sensitivity training up there?

When he sends out his ambassador, his good friend, Karen Hughes, and tells the Saudi women that she sees the day when they will drive cars and they laugh at her and tell her they like the way things are, there is something amiss. We are running this war on terror as though it was a war on Islam. We must change that.

This morning's Sydney Morning Herald carries a story about our troops in Afghanistan which is very disturbing. It talks about our troops burning bodies and then saying in the villages where this happened, "You allowed your fighters to be laid down facing west and be burnt. You are too scared to retrieve their bodies. This just proves you are the lady boys we always believed you to be. You attack and run away like women."

Now, when one talks like that to an Arab, they are asking for it. That is not leading to peace. That is not done by culturally sensitive people who are bringing American democracy. That is the language of people who ran Abu Ghraib. That is the kind of thing that brings us down, not raises us up. No elections, no trials of Saddam will change that.

[From the Sidney Morning Herald, Oct. 19, 2005]

FILM ROLLS AS TROOPS BURN DEAD

(By Tom Allard)

U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan burnt the bodies of dead Taliban and taunted their opponents about the corpses, in an act deeply offensive to Muslims and in breach of the Geneva conventions.

An investigation by SBS's Dateline program, to be aired tonight, filmed the burning of the bodies.

It also filmed a U.S. Army psychological operations unit broadcasting a message boasting of the burnt corpses into a village believed to be harbouring Taliban.

According to an SBS translation of the message, delivered in the local language, the soldiers accused Taliban fighters near Kandahar of being "cowardly dogs". "You allowed your fighters to be laid down facing west and burnt. You are too scared to retrieve their bodies. This just proves you are the lady boys we always believed you to be," the message reportedly said.

"You attack and run away like women. You call yourself Taliban but you are a disgrace to the Muslim religion, and you bring shame upon your family. Come and fight like men instead of the cowardly dogs you are."

The burning of a body is a deep insult to Muslims. Islam requires burial within 24 hours.

Under the Geneva conventions the burial of war dead "should be honourable, and, if possible, according to the rites of the religion to which the deceased belonged".

U.S. soldiers said they burnt the bodies for hygiene reasons but two reporters, Stephen Dupont and John Martinkus, said the explanation was unbelievable, given they were in an isolated area.

SBS said Australian special forces in Afghanistan were operating from the same base as the U.S. soldiers involved in the incident,

although no Australians took part in the action.

The incident is reminiscent of the psychological techniques used in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

EDUCATION FUNDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE WEST

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity of addressing this body and illustrating a problem that we have, especially in the West. I think that problem can be illustrated best by two charts that we have here.

The first chart, everything that is in blue in this chart is the amount of land that is owned by the Federal Government in each State. The second one is everything that is in red are the States that are having the difficult time of actually funding their own education systems. Those are the States having the slowest growth in education.

Now, I do not think it takes a rocket scientist to realize there is a correlation between the red States having problems funding education and the blue States that are controlled by the Federal Government with all their land. It is not because these red States do not have high taxes. In fact, they have a higher tax than the yellow States. It is not because they do not have a commitment to education; they actually spend a greater percentage of their budget on education than the yellow States. The difference is, we have a cavalier attitude about public lands that we should realize hurts kids and it hurts their education in the West.

Now, there is a solution to it; and it comes with a simple fruit, it is an apple, which stands for the Action Plan For Public Lands and Education. I wish I could say I was smart enough to have thought of it, but it was actually designed by some State legislators working the Council State Governments West that recognized this problem and came up with a solution to it.

There are two bills that we have which can deal with those solutions. The first one would say, all right, take all this blue land and allow the Federal Government to pay property tax on it. If the Federal Government paid the lowest rate of property tax on the land that is owned and controlled by them in the West, in fact, in the entire Nation, they would add another \$4 billion every year to the funding of public education. That is a whole lot of money for us to come up with, although you could also look at it as the fact that