

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 281.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4128, PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-266) on the resolution (H. Res. 527) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4128) to protect private property rights, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE MEN WHO GO TO WAR

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in 1599 Shakespeare said this about the men who go to war: "From this day to the ending of the world, but we in it shall be remembered. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

Some of those brothers from southeast Texas who shed their blood in Iraq were:

Specialist Adolf C. Carballo, Houston, Army;

Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Todd Arnold from Spring, Texas, Marines;

Specialist Scott Q. Larson, Jr., Houston, Army;

Captain Andrew R. Houghton, Houston, United States Army;

Lance Corporal Michael B. Wafford, Spring, United States Marine Corps;

Lance Corporal Thomas J. Zapp, Houston, Marine Corps;

PFC Jesus A. Leon-Perez, Houston, Army;

Lance Corporal Fred Maciel, Spring, Texas, United States Marine Corps;

Staff Sergeant Dexter S. Kimble, United States Marine Corps from Houston;

Sergeant Michael T. Robertson, Houston, Army;

Staff Sergeant Timothy J. Roark, Houston, United States Army;

Master Sergeant Ivica Jerak, Houston, United States Army.

These brothers died representing the United States of America, this band of brothers that we will remember. That's just the way it is.

TORTURE MUST NOT BE
CONDONED BY THE U.S.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this morning the top story on the front page of the Washington Post describes in detail how the CIA has been hiding and interrogating al Qaeda and other prisoners in covert prisons around the globe. No one knows what the rules of the game are for the interrogations that take place there. There is no accountability, no genuine oversight. In fact, information about these facilities and their practices has been deliberately withheld from the Congress and the American people. In effect, the prisoners in these jails simply disappear.

Mr. Speaker, this is not what America stands for, this is more like Chile under Pinochet or Argentina under the junta.

We know now why Vice President CHENEY is so determined that the final defense appropriations conference report include exceptions to Senator MCCAIN's provision against torture and the Markey provision prohibiting rendition. If those provisions are watered down or struck down by the defense conferees, then mark my words, Mr. Speaker, America will lose a piece of its soul. Let us reclaim the values and the principles that have made this country great.

Mr. Speaker, the text of the article in today's Washington Post is as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 2, 2005]

CIA HOLDS TERROR SUSPECTS IN SECRET
PRISONS

(By Dana Priest)

The CIA has been hiding and interrogating some of its most important al Qaeda captives at a Soviet-era compound in Eastern Europe, according to U.S. and foreign officials familiar with the arrangement.

The secret facility is part of a covert prison system set up by the CIA nearly four years ago that at various times has included sites in eight countries, including Thailand, Afghanistan and several democracies in Eastern Europe, as well as a small center at the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, according to current and former intelligence officials and diplomats from three continents.

The hidden global internment network is a central element in the CIA's unconventional war on terrorism. It depends on the cooperation of foreign intelligence services, and on keeping even basic information about the system secret from the public, foreign officials and nearly all members of Congress charged with overseeing the CIA's covert actions.

The existence and locations of the facilities—referred to as "black sites" in classified White House, CIA, Justice Department and congressional documents—are known to only a handful of officials in the United States and, usually, only to the president and a few top intelligence officers in each host country.

The CIA and the White House, citing national security concerns and the value of the program, have dissuaded Congress from demanding that the agency answer questions

in open testimony about the conditions under which captives are held. Virtually nothing is known about who is kept in the facilities, what interrogation methods are employed with them, or how decisions are made about whether they should be detained or for how long.

While the Defense Department has produced volumes of public reports and testimony about its detention practices and rules after the abuse scandals at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison and at Guantanamo Bay, the CIA has not even acknowledged the existence of its black sites. To do so, say officials familiar with the program, could open the U.S. government to legal challenges, particularly in foreign courts, and increase the risk of political condemnation at home and abroad.

But the revelations of widespread prisoner abuse in Afghanistan and Iraq by the U.S. military—which operates under published rules and transparent oversight of Congress—have increased concern among lawmakers, foreign governments and human rights groups about the opaque CIA system. Those concerns escalated last month, when Vice President Cheney and CIA Director Porter J. Goss asked Congress to exempt CIA employees from legislation already endorsed by 90 senators that would bar cruel and degrading treatment of any prisoner in U.S. custody.

Although the CIA will not acknowledge details of its system, intelligence officials defend the agency's approach, arguing that the successful defense of the country requires that the agency be empowered to hold and interrogate suspected terrorists for as long as necessary and without restrictions imposed by the U.S. legal system or even by the military tribunals established for prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay.

The Washington Post is not publishing the names of the Eastern European countries involved in the covert program, at the request of senior U.S. officials. They argued that the disclosure might disrupt counterterrorism efforts in those countries and elsewhere and could make them targets of possible terrorist retaliation.

The secret detention system was conceived in the chaotic and anxious first months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when the working assumption was that a second strike was imminent.

Since then, the arrangement has been increasingly debated within the CIA, where considerable concern lingers about the legality, morality and practicality of holding even unrepentant terrorists in such isolation and secrecy, perhaps for the duration of their lives. Mid-level and senior CIA officers began arguing two years ago that the system was unsustainable and diverted the agency from its unique espionage mission.

"We never sat down, as far as I know, and came up with a grand strategy," said one former senior intelligence officer who is familiar with the program but not the location of the prisons. "Everything was very reactive. That's how you get to a situation where you pick people up, send them into a netherworld and don't say, 'What are we going to do with them afterwards?'"

It is illegal for the government to hold prisoners in such isolation in secret prisons in the United States, which is why the CIA placed them overseas, according to several former and current intelligence officials and other U.S. government officials. Legal experts and intelligence officials said that the CIA's internment practices also would be considered illegal under the laws of several host countries, where detainees have rights to have a lawyer or to mount a defense against allegations of wrongdoing.