

EMERGING DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina, and I wanted to say, as we go into the Memorial Day work period, certainly the war in Iraq is going to be on everybody's mind. I think it is very important for us as a Congress and for us as a Nation to acknowledge the great accomplishments that have taken place in the war against terror.

Foremost, we saw last year a constitution drafted by the people in Iraq, an election, December 15, in which 300 political parties participated, and now a government, their first government, an elected government that will take place for 4 years, led by Mr. Malaki.

We look forward to working with the emerging democracy in Iraq, as it will be a huge anchor for freedom throughout the Middle East and throughout the world. This is a very important significant development, and while the press buries these things on page C or C section on page 16, it should be front-page, bold-type news. It never will be in this town, but the American people know it.

I have the honor of representing five military installations in southeast Georgia, including the 48th Brigade and the 3rd Infantry Division, which has had so many soldiers over there. We have lost many constituents.

Yet, as we talk to those soldiers one on one, the people who have actually been to Iraq, not because they heard stories at a cocktail party or they read something in the New York Times, but people who have been there, not just once but two times, three times; they are very proud of the progress that has been made. They are very mindful of the sacrifices of the soldiers who will not be coming home on this Memorial Day with the rest of us.

We owe it to them to continue this mission and stick with it. Mr. Blair was in America today with the President and showing international unity on it. Now is not the time to cut and run as so many people are suggesting in Washington D.C.

Secondly, I want to talk about immigration. Finally, the Senate has passed an immigration bill. That is all we can say about it. It doesn't appear to be a very strong bill, doesn't appear to be a bill that is going to pass the House. We feel in the House, you have to secure the border. We are in favor of some sort of fence.

We believe, and DAVE DREIER has a bill, that we need to have a biometric ID card for the people who are over here working on a temporary visa. On the subject of temporary visas, we believe that you have to have a program in which the employer and the employees are protected to know who is legal and who is illegal.

We are going to go into this thing open-minded in the House, but I can

say this, that one thing that we have a lot of unity in is we don't want to support any kind of amnesty program, and we are not going to do that.

Thirdly, when we come back from this work period, we are going to continue to work on our tax policy. We are experiencing the lowest unemployment rate since, well, actually, a lower common rate than we had in the 1970s, the 1980s, the 1970s and the 1960s. It is at 4.7 percent. We have more jobs being created now, 5 million in fact, since the Bush tax cuts went in place in 2003.

We are going to keep the economy going through a smart appropriations process. We have passed four and a half appropriations bills. We are going to pass 11 of them before we break for the July recess. If we don't make that deadline, we will still keep the trains running on time and still stay ahead of the historic schedule of Congress. In these appropriation bills, we are cutting spending and staying within the budget.

We passed tonight, and Mr. MCHENRY had mentioned ANWR. If you can think about the Alaskan wildlife reserve, it is the size of a basketball court. The proposed drilling area is the size of a \$1 bill on an entire basketball court. Yet, if you think about the oil that comes are from there, if President Clinton had not vetoed that bill in 1995, today domestic oil supply would be 20 percent higher.

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We need to have all the domestic oil supply working for us and producing that we can, yet at the same time we need to continue our drive to ethanol and to alternative fuels.

Now, the gentleman from South Carolina introduced and passed recently a very important bill on hydrogen, giving awards for people who advanced the science of hydrogen technology the furthest. I think it is a very good bill, that passed with bipartisan support in the House. But we need to continue that kind of research on lithium batteries, on ethanol, on biodiesel and any kind of flex fuel.

The bill I have introduced, H.R. 4409, along with ELIOT ENGEL of New York, is a great step in that direction. We need to do everything we can to reduce our dependency on foreign oil, and what H.R. 4409 does is reduce our domestic consumption by 20 percent in the next 20 years.

Finally, let me just say this: We are seeing a lot of work coming out of Washington. A lot of times the press doesn't like to report on the good news, but we have had a couple of good weeks, and we are going to continue to work hard on behalf of the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGELIS of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

STATES NEED TO REGAIN THEIR AUTONOMY

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a joy to be able to join you here on the floor tonight and hear the report from the gentleman from Georgia, which clearly illustrates that we have done much good in recent days here in this Congress, and to outline what we will be doing that is very positive in the coming weeks when we return.

I also wish to be able to at this time piggyback on the comments of my good friend from New Jersey, who is talking about some of the issues we have and the overall approach to funding that we have here in Congress.

I would like, if I could, to focus my comments on a few things that we have in relationship between States and the Federal Government with money.

A former majority leader of this House once said that if you want to get out of the trap, sometimes you have to let go of the cheese. Well, in the relationship we have between Federal and State governments, sometimes we have to let go of the cheese and emphasize what I think the gentleman from New Jersey was saying, the Tenth Amendment.

In the 1860s, flush with money from heavy protectionist tariffs, the United States for the first time passed the Morrill Act which, was a significant grant of federal money to a State for a specific purpose, in that case Land Grant Colleges, which have done a great job, I have one in my State, my kids went to it, it is great.

But a century later, in the 1960s, that changed somewhat, as the Federal Government started dangling money out and States, cash starved, accepted that money. What happened, like any good addict, once the States were hooked on the money, they could not let go. And the Federal Government, as any good supplier, as soon as they were hooked, started changing the rules of the game with mandates, with strings, with attachments to those programs.

I don't find anyone even wrong or evil in this process. The Federal Government has all sorts of people coming to us with problems they want help on, and we as a people simply want to help.

The States, I spent 16 years in the legislature of a State, are trying to build services without extended costs to the States, and that federal match hanging out there is extremely tempting.

But what we find eventually down the line is the Federal Government has