

Mr. Speaker, they have given the full measure of devotion to this Nation and they deserve our thanks. The invectives and political discourse need to focus on their sacrifice and not on our political ambitions.

URGING RESPECT FOR THE 9/11 WIDOWS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, across the Potomac in Arlington today, we are breaking ground for the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon. Our Nation is rightfully honoring the victims of those heinous acts.

It has also been 1 week since I called upon my Republican colleagues to reject Ann Coulter's vicious attacks on the widows of 9/11.

Not a single Republican elected official has stepped forward to reject her hate. So I have to conclude they are comfortable with her as their spokesman. Your silence is deafening. Apparently it is okay to exploit 9/11 to shore up your own sagging poll numbers or make a quick buck.

So rather than see 9/11 as a moment to unite America, Ann Coulter and her followers have chosen to divide and demonize fellow Americans. I am always amazed that the one casualty the American people would accept on 9/11 would be partisanship, and that is the one casualty you are not willing to give.

Ms. Coulter is threatened by the 9/11 widows. They threaten her simplistic world by daring to ask questions. Mr. Speaker, the 9/11 widows have courageously stood up to demand that we never forget the horror of September 11.

All Americans who lost loved ones should be honored, as we are doing in Arlington today, not denigrated simply because they do not fit your simplistic world view.

NO NEED FOR FLIP-FLOPPING IN THE WAR ON TERROR

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the sound you hear on the other side of the aisle is the sound of flip-flopping. Democrats may have put off announcing their agenda, but they have managed to perfect the art of the flip-flop.

Just this week the minority leader stated that she voted against the war in Iraq because she had seen the intelligence and it did not support the threat being claimed by the Bush administration.

Strangely, the minority leader had a different opinion during the debate leading up to the vote authorizing the use of military force. Then she said that she was aware that Saddam Hussein was engaging in the development of weapons of mass destruction "which

is a threat to countries in the region," and that there was no question he had chemical and biological weapons.

Flash forward to this week, and the minority leader stated that there was never anything in the intelligence that Iraq posed an imminent threat. Mr. Speaker, which is it? As we begin this debate on Iraq and the war on terror, the American people need decisiveness, not flip-flopping. Republicans want to step up and meet the challenge. It is now time for the Democrats to do the same.

IRAQ WAR UNDERMINES FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, increasingly Americans are realizing there is a better way to support our troops than just sending more of them off to be killed. Would that more here in Washington had a little of our troops' courage to stand up to the myth-based policies of this Administration.

The good judgment of a strong majority of House Democrats, including the consistent position of our minority leader in opposing President Bush's original invasion of Iraq, was demonstrated again yesterday by a report from over 100 top foreign policy experts across the ideological spectrum.

Eighty-seven percent of them said that the war in Iraq has a negative impact on protecting the American people, that it is undermining the war on terrorism. But ignoring their advice, ignoring one retired general after another, and ignoring the good sense of ordinary Americans across this country, the Administration has consistently pursued a policy that endangers our families' security.

The price of the Administration's deaf ear, \$229 million per day, and a price paid in the blood of others every day.

LONE STAR VOICE—C.E. CUNNINGHAM

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, down on the Rio Grande where the sage brush and mesquite trees line the lawless border of the riverbank is the home of generations of Texas ranchers. Their homes, feet from the porous border, they wake up to human smugglers, drug runners and thieves that have trespassed on their soil.

On the border I met crusty rancher, C.E. Cunningham of Quemado, Texas. He has lived on the land for seven decades, and he now writes me about the southern border invasion into America: "We have had our livestock, wildlife killed, vehicles, tools, equipment stolen. I had to move my mother out of her own home when three illegals stole and robbed her. I have taken weapons

away from thieves. I have seen the Mexican Army camped out on the riverbank, and I have seen their tracks on our side. I have tried to get the Mexican Government to help with the thieves, but they told me it was best they stole over here instead of Mexico. It seems to me the Mexican government sanctions these crimes against us."

Mr. Speaker, Americans like C.E. Cunningham want their lives back, their land back, and their security back. We have to stop letting the Mexican Army and Generalissimo Fox invade the United States by encouraging illegal entry into our country.

And that's just the way it is.

DO NOT FOCUS TOO HEAVILY ON FEMA

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, all of the talk in the media these last few days has been about the fraud in the FEMA individual and housing assistance program.

Now, I am not saying that those who perpetrated the fraud should not be dealt with appropriately, or that FEMA and the Red Cross do not have to clean up their act.

But, folks, this is a disaster the likes of which we have never seen. What would you have had them do in such an emergency, apply miles and miles of red tape and risk not giving service to those who need it quickly?

Colleagues, do not let this be a smoke screen that would cause us to lose sight of the contracting and the purchasing waste, fraud and abuse that the big corporations have perpetrated on our government and all of us, while businesses in the Gulf Region went bust for lack of work.

It is always the little guy who bears the blame while the big ones get away. Our relevant committees in this Congress need to turn our focus to the Halliburtons of the world. When we look at the waste, the fraud, and abuse of these giants, that \$1 billion will look like chump change.

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ETHIOPIA BORDER DISPUTE

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to call attention to what may become the next tragedy in Africa, the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

My constituents in Minnesota remember the destruction and death from the 1998 to 2000 war over the border that cost the lives of 70,000 people. I urge the President and the Secretary of State to leave no stone unturned to bring a peaceful resolution to this matter.