

“In addition, Rumsfeld ‘refused to acknowledge and even ignored the potential for the insurgency.’”

□ 2345

The retired general said, “At one point,” and this is the apex of incompetency, “At one point he threatened to fire the next person who talked about the need for a post-war plan.”

Now, we have all been involved in some form of leadership, whether it was in athletics or in politics or in business or whatever the case may be. To just not plan for an insurgency in a war is unacceptable. But then to say that whoever wants to talk about a plan is going to be fired is the height of incompetence.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Could you give the web site, Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. [www.housedemocrats.gov/30something](http://www.housedemocrats.gov/30something). [www.housedemocrats.gov/30something](http://www.housedemocrats.gov/30something).

### 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for the remainder of the time until midnight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. So now what we have in summary is the Director of National Intelligence, John Negroponte, who has signed off on this National Intelligence Estimate and said that he agrees with the conglomerate of intelligence agencies who have determined that we are worse off than we were before we entered Iraq and that Iraq has made us worse; and we have our 9/11 Commission chairs, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission chairs who on September 11 reissued their opinion, that they had issued a report card on their recommendations last December which included 10 C’s, 12 D’s and 4 F’s. “What we argued then,” they said, “is still true now. Americans are safer, but we are not yet safe.”

Well, that was the September 11 assessment. Now the National Intelligence Estimate indicates that, no, we are not safer. We were not safe and we are not safer.

Here are some of the items that the 9/11 Commission indicated that we should implement that have not been implemented in the 5 years since 9/11. Allocate funding on the basis of risks and vulnerabilities. We haven’t done that. We have not created and rehearsed State and local emergency response plans. We have not turned over the broadcast frequencies to first responders now, like we should, instead of in 2009 when the plans are to do that. We have not shut down the turf battles, nor increased information sharing among government agencies.

The list goes on and on. There were dozens of recommendations that they made, the majority of which have not been implemented. Both the bipartisan

co-chairs have come together repeatedly to say, why has this Congress not moved forward with the recommendations?

If we take control of this body, as we hope to on November 7, Mr. Speaker, we will implement the 9/11 recommendations, we will implement our Real Security Plan, we will commit to moving this country in a new direction, instead of continuing on the stay-the-course mentality.

We have got to make sure that we go in the direction that the American people have called for, which is to make sure that we aren’t interminably mired in the chaos in Iraq; that every single day we don’t see more and more of our young men and women killed by suicide bombers and by accidents and by deliberate bombings. All for what? That is what I think the vast majority of Americans are asking themselves every single day, is why are we there? What are we fighting for? Is it worth it?

That is why poll after poll comes back where Americans say they don’t think the Iraq war was worth it. They certainly wanted us to go into Afghanistan. They certainly wanted us to go in and finish the job there, to hunt Osama bin Laden down and find him. But we don’t even have enough troops on the ground in Afghanistan right now to get that done. That just isn’t even possible at this point.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I don’t know if the gentlelady saw last evening the interview with former President Bill Clinton. He achieved a bit of notoriety. There was a statement that President Clinton made about if he were President at this point in time, there would be so many more troops in Afghanistan. There would be so many more troops in Afghanistan. The inference is, of course, that we wouldn’t be in Iraq.

Well, I am not going to speculate, but I thought it was significant that he talked about the reality is that there is just insufficient troops existing.

You know what I find particularly interesting, we are talking about active duty army military personnel. It is worse with the National Guard and the Army Reserve. I know we all have Guard units back home. I have a large military reservation that has served this country very well. We have, in my opinion, some of the best Army and Air Force National Guard units anywhere in the country. But the truth is, they are under incredible stress.

I will just read this to you. “More than two-thirds of the Army National Guard’s 34 brigades are not combat ready largely because of vast equipment shortfalls that will take as much as \$21 billion to correct.

“The comments by Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum came in the wake of disclosures by Army officials, analysts and members of the Congress that two-thirds of the active Army’s brigades are not combat ready.

“The problem, they say, is driven by budget constraints that won’t allow

the military to complete the personnel training and equipment repairs and replacement that must be done when units return home after deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan.

“I am further behind or in an even more dire situation than the active Army, but we both have the same symptoms. I just have a higher fever.”

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. DELAHUNT, I am going to yield after I mention something, about 2 minutes, to Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, because the facts are what they are. It is what it is.

We are highlighting these. Because we are using third-party validators, Mr. DELAHUNT, we are highlighting these with third-party validators, just in case the Republican majority, and like I told you, for the 109th Congress, I am done with trying to get the Republican majority to see it the way not only that the experts see it, that are bipartisan, or nonpartisan, when it comes down to national security, and the American people.

We can talk about energy, we can talk about safety of America, we can talk about our operations overseas, all of these things are by third-party validators.

Mr. DELAHUNT, the real issue is when you have a situation like we have in Iraq, you call in those individuals that are speaking out. Who? These major generals and these brigadier generals and individuals that are retired now, and retired because they couldn’t say it when they were enlisted. What, they are not longer useful to country? We don’t want to know what they have to share with us, to help us learn, to help us protect America?

When I was in the State legislature for 8 years, when someone would come to my office, and even here now in Washington, I want to talk to the man or the woman that is in the drop program, those individuals that are already getting ready to retire, because they are going to tell you the truth. They are not concerned about what is going to happen.

I want a sergeant major in the military to come talk to me, because a sergeant major, a command sergeant major is the highest enlisted individual in the armed services. You can’t touch them, because they are respected by the men and women that serve under them and with them. They will tell you the truth.

Those are the kind of individuals that we need before the full Armed Services Committee. Those are the kind of individuals that we need to highlight under the dome here, be it House or Senate. That is what we need.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not what is happening in this Congress. So just because the Republican majority says it or the President says it doesn’t necessarily mean that it is true.

We are saying that we are going to bring balance, we are going to bring oversight. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, as I yield to you, if there was a Democratic President in the White House,

they would be challenged by the Democrats in Congress. Challenged. Not just, oh, well, you know, we are Democrats first and then Members of Congress second. That has never been the case, Mr. DELAHUNT. There has always been oversight.

President Clinton used to have fits because of what Members of Congress were saying and doing as relates to their oversight responsibilities on issues that they disagreed with him on.

So to bring balance to this government, we need this House to be Democratic-controlled.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. MEEK, the sergeant major you are referring to generally, that is the guy you will never see under the direction and control of this institution because they, "they" being our Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. DELAHUNT, they don't like the truth staring them in the face. Because the facts, when they are opposite the facts, the facts really lay out just what a mess we are in.

What they need to do is what they do every single day that I have been here as a Member of this body, and that is repeat what they would like to be true over and over and over again. Like you said, force our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to rubber stamp whatever it is they do.

Then when they don't automatically rubber stamp whatever it is they do, when that board lights up with the red and the green and the yes and the no, it looks like a Christmas tree, we get Christmas every other month. Whenever there is a tough vote, the arm twisters come out, the arms are wrenched behind their back and conviction gets checked at that Chamber door right there, because when you are elected to Congress as a Republican, apparently you are expected to check your opinions and your principles at the Chamber door and do whatever it is that the leadership is telling you you are going to do and you came here to do. Never mind the folks back home. Never mind going in the direction that the people of this country want to go in. Never mind that we are mired in a chaotic war in Iraq, that gas prices are astronomically high, that we are in a financial situation economically that doesn't allow us to really make the expenditures that we should because we have a deficit that is out of control, because we have a foreign debt that is more than all 42 presidents combined, as you have outlined so eloquently night after night.

Yet in 42 days, Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to make a difference. We have an opportunity to move this country in a new direction, to implement the New Direction Agenda, to implement the Real Security agenda, to implement an agenda that is going to once again reflect the values and principles and ideals of working families in America, and not just for the select few, and to elect some Members of Congress who will throw away that rubber stamp.

You often talk about how on November 8 we are going to come back up here and have a rubber stamp burning party. I look forward to the bonfire, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I would just say, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, we will have the appropriate fire, with all fire codes, because we have to do away with this.

Mr. RYAN, I want to thank you for taking on the additional couple of minutes so that we can fully share with the Members. Of course, we need more time to do it, but to share with them even more about the level of frustration, not only that Americans have, but professionals that are in national security business here in this country.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Any time I can have an opportunity to give you more chance to speak directly to the American people, I will step up and I will take that opportunity, because I think the American people need to hear what you have to say.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. They want it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. They want what you are giving them, Mr. MEEK.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much, and the staff that stays here with us so late every night. Thank you, Mr. DELAHUNT, who, as we know, is several years older than the 30-Something Group. We know how tired he gets. Thank you, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, a great leader in Congress.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of district business.

Mr. HINOJOSA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official legislative business in the district.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in the district.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and September 26, 27, 28, and 29.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today and September 26.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, September 26.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3679. An act to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on September 21, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 5684. To implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9566. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services [Docket No. 04-042-2] (RIN:0579-AB88) received September 15, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9567. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interstate Movement of Garbage From Hawaii; Municipal Solid Waste [Docket No. 05-002-4] (RIN: 0579-AC12) received September 15, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9568. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Examining System (RIN: