

it from fulfilling its core mission, to protect Americans from attack.

FOXES GUARDING THE HENHOUSE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, Johnnie Burton and Terri Shaw, two of President Bush's administration's foxes that have been guarding the henhouse, are stepping down. And now they are gone and the American people are better off.

At the Interior Department, Johnnie Burton let Big Oil drill at taxpayers' expense and got away with it until Congress stepped in, costing the taxpayers billions of dollars.

At the Education Department, Terri Shaw is stepping down after several scandals were uncovered in the student loan industry. On her watch, lenders and Education Department officials undermined the student loan program, which millions of students and middle-class families count on to go to college with and achieve their American Dream.

Every day we see another headline and another story. Congress does its oversight job, and another Bush administration official at the center of the storm is eventually forced to step down.

The White House has had an approach of letting the industry govern itself. They cut out the middleman. They are the government industry lobbyists. From our energy and production to our college loans, nothing is out of bounds. And Americans sent a clear message last November. They are tired of corruption. They want a change and an end to business as usual here in Washington. Democrats got the message, and we're restoring accountability to the American people's government.

FLOOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R.

1684

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in March, the Homeland Security Committee unanimously approved a bill to authorize funding for the Department of Homeland Security for the coming year. It wasn't a perfect bill, but it was one the committee accepted.

Now the liberal leadership plans to strip the most critical provisions in the legislation. These are not controversial points that should make my colleagues on the other side of the aisle uncomfortable. Unless, of course, the Democrats do not agree with an increased emphasis on immigration enforcement at the ports or secure biometric identification for aliens captured at sea or critical funding to protect America's food supply. But, as we've all seen since the Democrats took over in January, we know that is the case.

But it actually gets worse. The liberal leadership voted against allowing noncontroversial amendments to increase information sharing between DHS and cops on the beat, allowing DHS to investigate Social Security fraud at the workplace, and increased fines of employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes a mockery of the democratic process, does nothing extra to secure our borders and will, unfortunately, probably make our Nation less safer.

Welcome to Homeland Security, Democrat style.

DEMOCRATS TRIED TO CHANGE COURSE IN IRAQ BUT PRESIDENT BUSH REJECTED THAT CHANGE OF COURSE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush had a chance to change the direction of the war in Iraq, but he rejected it. He rejected a plan that would finally hold the Iraqi Government accountable for meeting the benchmarks that he laid out earlier this year.

According to the nonpartisan Brookings Institute, the Iraqi Government is failing to meet the political benchmarks they were supposed to make. By vetoing the bill, the President was condoning such inaction.

The President claims the situation is getting better in Iraq. Wrong. April was the deadliest month of the year and one of the deadliest of the entire war.

Retired General William Odom said last week, and I'm quoting, "No effective strategy can be devised for the United States until it begins withdrawing its forces from Iraq. Only that step will break the paralysis that now confronts us."

General Odom is correct. Today our troops are serving as referees in a deadly civil war that shows no end in sight. This Congress offered the President a dramatic change, and he rejected it. We're not going to give up, because ending this war is simply too important.

FUNDING FOR INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS

(Ms. FALLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most effective tools we have against fighting our enemies like al Qaeda is intelligence, information that allows us to disrupt their terror cells and prevent attacks before they happen. And yet, the Democrats see fit to cut the funding of these operations.

Worst of all, they are shifting resources away from vital, war-related intelligence operations towards their

politically correct crusade on global warming.

Does the Democrat leadership really think that carbon emissions represent a greater threat to the United States than the 9/11 radical jihadists?

Yesterday, law enforcement foiled a plot by terrorists to attack and kill U.S. soldiers in New Jersey. Protecting our Nation should be our number one priority. Does the leadership really think that our surveillance satellites should be aimed at polar ice caps and not terror cells and that spies should be investigating global warming?

Congress must adequately fund our intelligence operations. If we don't, we may need to be more concerned about global warming in the United States caused by a global attack, caused by a nuclear attack in our own backyards.

THE STATUS QUO IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, with President Bush's veto last week, it is clear that if this Congress is going to take this war in a new direction, we need some of our Republican colleagues to join with us. Unfortunately, it seems that the House Republicans are still willing to blindly follow the President, no matter the facts in Iraq.

Consider this statement from Minority Leader Boehner over the weekend. He said, and I quote, "We want a clean bill. We don't want artificial deadlines. We don't want artificial measures in there to try to ensure failure."

Let's not forget that the artificial measures that the minority leader is referring to were actually measures designed by President Bush himself to hold the Iraqi Government accountable. These are critical measures that will put the pressure on the Iraqi Government to make political, diplomatic and economic reforms. So far, none of these benchmarks have been met.

It is time that the House Republicans realize that the status quo is no longer acceptable to the American people. We have to keep pressure on the Iraqis to initiate these reforms and bring our troops home.

LIBERIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, my wife and I had the privilege of having a Liberian refugee stay in our home for almost a year.

This gentleman came from dire circumstances in his homeland, as his wife was brutally assaulted, and he was beaten and forced to leave his country. He still has scars from being beaten with the blunt end of a rifle.

Like thousands of other Liberians forced to leave their homeland, our

friend came to the United States under temporary protective status. One of the unintended consequences of the temporary protective status is it didn't foresee that civil war would continue in Liberia for several years, leaving refugees in America stuck in a state of flux.

Currently all Liberian refugees living in the United States under temporary protective status have until October of this year, and then they will be forced to return to Liberia.

The Liberian Refugee Immigration Protection Act of 2007, a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives KENNEDY, ELLISON and myself, would allow Liberians in the United States on temporary protected status the opportunity to apply for permanent residency status.

This bill addresses an urgent situation faced by Liberian refugees who have legally come to America.

I urge co-sponsorship and passage of H.R. 1941, the Liberian Refugee Immigration Protection Act of 2007.

HONORING NAVAJO CODE TALKERS STEWART CLAH AND CHARLES GUY

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of two Navajo Indians and celebrate the American heroes who passed away last week. Stewart Clah and Charles Guy were members of the elite Navajo Code Talkers. They did not simply rely on their ancestral language to relay critical United States military communications. Rather, the innovative Navajo Code Talkers used their native language to build a succinct and unbreakable code for military communications during World War II.

We will never know exactly how many American lives were saved or how many American military operations were successful because of their ingenuity and sacrifice. But we do know Stewart Clah and Charles Guy and the rest of the Navajo Code Talkers will forever be remembered as critical to the Allied victory during one of the world's darkest hours.

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ARE REPUBLICANS STARTING TO REALIZE THAT INDEFINITELY STAYING THE COURSE IS NOT A STRATEGY?

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

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, it appears that congressional Republicans are finally coming around to the possibility that the war in Iraq cannot go on indefinitely.

This weekend House Republican leader JOHN BOEHNER said if this troop escalation plan is not working by Sep-

tember or October, a plan B would need to be explored. This timid response is a sign that the Republicans see the writing on the wall and are desperate to hedge their bets on a failed policy.

The minority leader's timetable of this fall comes just days after Mr. BOEHNER joined President Bush in abandoning the benchmarks for Iraqi success the President himself established in January. Last week the minority leader and almost every Republican joined the President's call for an open-ended commitment of American troops and tax dollars in Iraq. Now feeling the pressure from the Americans who wisely support benchmarks and timelines, it appears that the Republican leader is backtracking.

The American people and the majority of this Congress will stand firm in supporting our troops and showing leadership for a new course in Iraq. Let's hope the minority leader lifts his head out of the sand, and he and his party and the President join us in moving Iraq in a new direction.

NEW DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS PRODUCING POSITIVE RESULTS FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when the American people entrusted this House to a new Democratic majority, they wanted Congress to deliver tangible results. We are living up to that promise. In the first 100 hours, we passed rules to clean up the way that Congress operates. We implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. We raised the minimum wage to expand economic prosperity to millions who have been left behind for too long, and we cut interest rates in half so college is more affordable to middle-class families in our country.

We also repealed billions of dollars in tax breaks to big oil companies and instead are investing that in alternative fuels and energy-efficient technology. We hope this legislation will begin to wean our Nation off foreign oil because today customers are once again paying record prices at the pump, and that is simply wrong. This legislation is a first step in changing our Nation's energy policy.

We also passed a budget that is actually balanced within the next 5 years, and we did it without raising taxes.

Mr. Speaker, we are living up to our promise to move our Nation in a new and better direction.

URGING SUPPORT OF H.R. 1252, EMERGENCY PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, in northeast Wisconsin last Tuesday, prices for regular gasoline hit \$3.13 per gallon, 37

cents higher than a month ago, and they have doubled since President Bush took office. And what is worse, the price of gasoline rose even as the price of crude oil fell.

Yet the Federal Trade Commission has yet to investigate or punish anyone for price gouging. This is unacceptable. The FTC has a duty to investigate unfair trade practices.

H.R. 1252, the Emergency Price Gouging Prevention Act, gives the FTC explicit authority to investigate and punish energy price manipulation at each and every stage along the way. It brings greater transparency to oil and gas markets and forces offenders to pay penalties to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1252. It will protect consumers from unreasonable escalations in gasoline prices. There is a better way to do things in America. Let's get started today.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS HAVE TAKEN THE WAR IN A NEW DIRECTION; REPUBLICANS MUST NOW JOIN US

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, congressional Democrats are trying to move the Iraq war in a new direction, but we are not getting much help from the White House or the congressional Republicans. House Democrats have now voted four separate times over the last 3 months to change the course of the war, but every single time House Republicans refused to join us.

For weeks congressional Republicans were saying that the withdrawal timeline proposed would lead to America's defeat in Iraq. But now a week after the President vetoed that bill, Republican leaders are saying that our generals must make the troop surge work by this fall. Republican leaders have now indicated that there should be a timeline for progress in Iraq, stating that, "By the time we get to September or October, Members are going to know how well this is working, and if it isn't, what is plan B?"

Mr. Speaker, it appears that Republicans are slowly but surely coming around to timetables in Iraq. This doesn't mean that they are defeatists, as their own talking points have suggested in the past. It means that they may be turning into realists.

THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, last January when the President was suggesting the need for the escalation of the numbers of troops in Iraq, he also told us that while we would provide the troops under his policy, the Iraqis would provide a series of