

raw water from the Euphrates River being sent to these camps. Halliburton said it didn't happen—despite the fact I had the evidence—didn't happen, never happened, not true. The U.S. Army said: Didn't happen, never happened. I did not understand that. I would have thought the U.S. Army would have been apoplectic on behalf of the health of its troops.

So I asked the inspector general: Do an investigation, will you, and tell me what the facts are.

The inspector general did the investigation and just finished a month and a half ago. Guess what? The whistleblowers were right. So why did the U.S. Army declare to us it didn't? I understand the company deciding it will not admit to anything. What about the U.S. Army? In fact, they sent a general to this Congress, to the Armed Services Committee, to say these incidents never happened. Now we have an inspector general report that not only demonstrates that the general testified inappropriately, was wrong, deceived the Congress, but that the inspector general had provided that information to the Pentagon prior to them sending the general up here to tell us information that was not accurate.

It just goes on and on.

Mr. President, we need to have a Truman committee. I know my message is tiresome to some, but it doesn't matter much to me. This Congress owes it to the American people to do what previous Congresses have done during wartime, and that is properly investigate the waste, the fraud, and the abuse on the most significant expenditure of taxpayers' money that has ever occurred ever in the history of this country for contractors. We shoveled money out this door. It is unbelievable. And almost no oversight.

I brought to the floor of the Senate many times a picture of a man who testified with bricks of one-hundred-dollar bills wrapped in Saran Wrap. He said it was the Wild West. We told contractors: Come to this building and bring a bag because we pay in cash.

I described that in the context of a company called Custer Battles. Two guys who had virtually no contracting experience in a very short time got many millions of dollars worth of contracts. And they were then found to have defrauded the Coalition Provisional Authority.

I came to the floor a week or two ago and said the New York Times did some enterprising reporting—good for them, and I say to those reporters: You did some great work, work that probably could have and should have been done by the Congress in the recent past.

I showed a picture of a man named Ephraim, 22 years old, and his 25-year-old vice president who was a massage therapist—a 22-year-old CEO of a company and a 25-year-old massage therapist as the vice president. They ran a company that was a shell corporation set up by the 22-year-old's dad some years ago out of an unmarked office in

Miami Beach. They got \$300 million in contracts from the U.S. Department of the Army to provide munitions and weapons to the Afghan army and police.

What ended up in Afghanistan was, in many cases, ammunition from the mid-1960s, manufactured by the Chinese in boxes that were taped and coming apart. This was a company that got over \$300 million.

Should somebody ask the U.S. Department of the Army and the Sustainment Command of the Department of the Army in Illinois how on Earth did this happen? How did you think you would get by with this? How are you going to explain this to the American taxpayers?

We desperately need to establish a Truman committee to investigate this issue. The American taxpayers deserve no less, in my judgment.

MEDIA MARKET CONCENTRATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wish to mention, this morning out of the Senate Commerce Committee, thanks to Senator INOUE's and Senator STEVENS' support of my legislation, we passed legislation that will veto a rule that was passed by the Federal Communications Commission that allows for more consolidation in America's media.

The Federal Communications Commission decided they want more concentration in the media, despite the fact that most of what Americans hear, see, and read every single day is directed by about five or six major corporations in America. They think we need more concentration. So they passed a rule that says it is going to be OK to allow newspapers to buy television stations in the same city.

We have had a prohibition against that action for a while. It is called cross-ownership. They did their rule. The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission was very anxious to get this rule done and serve whatever master he was serving. They did their rule, but today we passed a veto resolution out of the Commerce Committee, a disapproval of the rule by the Federal Communications Commission that would allow greater concentration in the media.

The last thing we need is more concentration in the media. We have all these supporters that come to the Senate floor who say: What are you talking about? We have all these new outlets. Go to the Internet. See how many sites there are. Go to cable television. See how many channels there are. I say: Yes, a lot of new choices but from the same ventriloquist, the same source.

One guy testified before the Commerce Committee and said, for example, on cable television in my office, 48 channels are on basic tier and 42 of those channels belong to the same five or six major companies. That bill will come to the floor of the Senate because

it is a privileged piece of legislation. My resolution of disapproval, passed by the Commerce Committee today, will come to the Senate as a privileged resolution. It will be on the calendar now. I am going to consult with Senator REID, and I will visit with the minority, and find a time to bring it up and have a vote to disapprove the rule that was enacted by the Federal Communications Commission, which, in my judgment, stands logic on its head.

OIL MARKET SPECULATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the final matter I want to talk about today is this issue of the price of oil and the price of gasoline and excessive speculation. There has been some discussion today about this, and I want to make this point.

We have seen a dramatic runup in the price of oil and, therefore, the price of gasoline. There is no justification with respect to the fundamentals of oil and supply and demand for that. There is no justification for it at all, but something has changed in this country. What has changed is the futures market has become an orgy of speculation.

Let me quote a man named Mr. Fadel Gheit, a top analyst from Oppenheimer and Co. He has been in this business for 30 years. He said this a couple of months ago.

There is absolutely no shortage of oil. I'm absolutely convinced that oil prices shouldn't be a dime above \$55 a barrel. Oil speculators include the largest financial institutions in the world. I call it the world's largest gambling hall. It's open 24/7. It's totally unregulated. This is like a highway with no cops and no speed limit and everybody's going 120 miles per hour."

This is happening in the futures market. You need a futures market to hedge. You need it for liquidity. I understand that. What has happened to the futures market is pretty bizarre. We now see on the futures market 20 times the amount of oil bought and sold every day than is used every day. Twenty times more is bought and sold than is used. For the first time, we see hedge funds up to their neck in the futures market. Is it because hedge funds love oil? No, they don't know anything about oil. Do they want oil delivered to their offices? Do they want oil delivered to their homes? No. They never want to own any oil. They want to buy things they will never get from people who never had it. That is the way the futures market works. These people are speculating. Hedge funds are neck deep speculating in oil futures, and for the first time investment banks have joined them. So you now have big investment banks and big hedge funds with a presence in the futures market like never before. They have all these commodity corners in their company now, and they are hiring more, and they are speculating at an unbelievable rate.

I am told, and I have read, that investment banks for the first time are