

and the gentleman doesn't need reminding of that, but these were not simply soldiers of a regime that was pursuing a war that you and I might view in a different way.

Mr. CANTOR. Reclaiming my time, I would just say to the gentleman, as he does know, there were applicable provisions at law which govern the treatment of soldiers at war and there is a much less definitive, more nebulous environment in which we are to look towards enemy combatants, which is my point. Because with the trial of enemy combatants on U.S. soil, we are confronting, as the gentleman knows, cases of first impression at every turn, and we are confronting uncertainty as to the disposition of these cases which brings up potential harm for U.S. citizens.

I would just go back to the gentleman's plea that he would like to see us support this bill. If the primary purpose is to maintain, promote the security and safety of our troops and provide them with funding, it is a reach for me to understand how allowing for a release of photos, how allowing for the transfer of enemy combatants—terrorists—to U.S. soil furthers that end.

So I would say in closing, Madam Speaker, if the gentleman is satisfied with deferring to the White House and deferring to this President on the very core purpose of securing this country at all levels and doesn't feel the Congress should take affirmative action, then I believe his support of this bill is well put. But it is certainly the opinion of many of us in this House as indicated by votes as late as yesterday that we can do better, that we can take action to secure our troops, get them the money they need and get rid of the unrelated items in this bill.

Mr. HOYER. I simply want to observe, as I pointed out in the five or six points I made, particularly that current detainees cannot be transferred or released to another country without notice to us, nor can they be released here in the United States without further action. So that the gentleman's premise is, I think, not correct, that this President has the authority to, or the intent to release people at this time in the United States before or after trial.

Having said that, I would say, the gentleman continues to talk about the add-ons, but I will tell the gentleman, as the gentleman knows, over 80 percent of this bill deals with the funding and security of our troops and the prosecution of the effort to defeat terrorism. Over 80 percent of this bill. It is in that context that I would hope the gentleman would see his way clear to urging his colleagues to join with us in passing this needed legislation.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his suggestion and counsel, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning-hour debate, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday June 16, 2009, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KILROY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

COMMENDING SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT KEN MITCHELL

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend South Orangetown Schools Superintendent Ken Mitchell in Rockland County in my district for his quick reaction and his bravery as he singlehandedly prevented what could have been a terrible tragedy in South Orangetown Middle School.

According to reports, a man came into the school, stormed past security and demanded at gunpoint that Mr. Mitchell make changes to a letter on swine flu. He certainly picked the wrong person to threaten when he took on Mr. Mitchell, a former hockey player and coach. The 55-year-old superintendent was able to tackle him and disarm him before police were able to break into the locked office to apprehend the suspect.

Thankfully, no one was hurt.

Why someone would enter a school with a gun is something I will never understand. It's disturbing to even fathom what could lead someone to choose to do that. However, it is heartening to realize that someone like Ken Mitchell is standing in their way.

The dedication shown by Mr. Mitchell to the children should be an example to all. Our Nation has witnessed too many deaths of our children in their schools. The people of the South Orangetown school system and the community as a whole owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Hero is an overused word in today's world, but I can think of fewer situations which more warrant that word than protecting children in their classrooms. Ken Mitchell is truly a hero.

VIETNAM MUST RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW

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

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, although we live in the 21st century, many people today are still deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law by governments that lack the rule of law. One such government is the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

About 10 years ago, the Vietnamese Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs directly oversaw and operated two state-owned labor companies that were involved in the largest human trafficking case ever prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice. The case thoroughly documented the exploitation and abusive conditions faced by more than 230 workers at the Daewoosa factory in American Samoa. These victims were beaten, starved, sexually harassed and threatened with deportation. The High Court of American Samoa subsequently found these state-owned labor agencies liable for the atrocities and made them pay \$3.5 million to the victims. Almost 10 years after the ruling, Vietnam still refuses to acknowledge its part in these atrocities and pay.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the U.S. Congress demand that the Vietnamese government pay the damages and respect the rule of law.

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CONTINUING BONUSES FOR BANKERS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, since January, the American people have endured another loss of \$1.33 trillion of their wealth, having already faced the worst drop in wealth since 1951 in the prior quarter. Yet despite being at the root of our economy's tailspin, Wall Street continues to issue huge bonuses.

For example, Merrill Lynch has issued \$4 billion in bonuses to the very bankers and financiers who created this mess that are now nested over at the Bank of America. This is yet another sign that America needs to rein in the false money wizards and reward those who create real wealth in our society, starting with hardworking Americans.

So let me ask the question, when will Wall Street's profits translate into a better life for everyone else? With wealth declining and unemployment rising, America should not be hollowed out by Wall Street. Rather, Wall Street's business should translate into a better way of life for the American Republic. We have wandered far from that mark.

AMERICANS' NET WORTH SHRINKS \$1.33 TRILLION IN 1Q

(By Jeannine Aversa)

WASHINGTON.—American households lost \$1.33 trillion of their wealth in the first three months of the year as the recession took a bite out of stock portfolios and dragged down home prices.

The Federal Reserve reported Thursday that household net worth fell to \$50.38 trillion in the January-March quarter, the lowest level since the third quarter of 2004. The