

State Party's Progressive Caucus for leading the effort to pass the resolution. The resolution states that "far from eradicating the Taliban and other insurgencies, the presence of foreign troops has instead strengthened them, creating greater insecurity, death and impoverishment of the Afghan people."

The California Democratic Party's resolution expresses deep concern for the "honorable American young men and women who have been killed and wounded" and the terrible toll of the war on their families. It notes that our involvement in Afghanistan "continues to cost billions of dollars each month while the United States and particularly the State of California are in an economic crisis without money to fund domestic needs."

The resolution also calls attention to the plight of the Afghan women who have suffered greatly during the war, and it calls for an end to military action that causes civilian casualties. It urges President Obama to redirect America's "funding and resources to include an increase in humanitarian and developmental aid." It also asks the President to encourage "multiparty talks aimed at ensuring a Democratic and legitimate representation of the people of Afghanistan, as well as a multiparty regional diplomacy for the safety and stability of neighboring countries."

Mr. Speaker, the resolution was adopted after the members of the California Democratic Party heard the powerful testimony of Marine veteran Rick Reyes. He has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and he said, There is no military solution to Afghanistan. The problems in Afghanistan are social problems, problems that cannot be fixed militarily.

Mr. Speaker, instead of escalating the war and bringing more destruction to Afghanistan, we must devote our resources to improving the lives of the Afghan people. This change in strategy will achieve a number of very important goals. It will give the Afghan people hope for their future. It will give them a reason to reject violent extremism. It will save the lives of our troops, and it will save the lives of Afghan civilians. And it will save money, money that we need to invest in what will truly make our Nation stronger and safer, which includes energy independence, jobs, and reforming health care so that health care doesn't actually strangle our economy.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot that we should be doing, and this is what the American people want the Obama administration to focus on. That's why I will join with millions of Americans in the days ahead to oppose the escalation of the war in Afghanistan, and to continue to urge our President to change course.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NAVY SEALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Navy SEALs are the United States Navy's elite commandos. And last week we learned that they captured one of the most wanted terrorists in all of Iraq. Ahmed Hashim Abed was behind the murder and mutilation of four Blackwater USA security guards in Fallujah in the year 2004. This ring-leader of this ambush planned the murder of these four Americans in Fallujah. And these four Blackwater security guards, what they were doing was transporting supplies from one place to another.

So he had planned, Abed had planned an ambush against these individuals. They are ambushed. They are murdered. The bodies of these four murdered Americans were then dragged through the streets, burned and hung from a bridge in Fallujah. Mr. Speaker, I've been to that very bridge in the year 2005, and you still have an eerie feeling knowing that four Americans were hung there in public view. The U.S. military, by the way, has put a plaque on that bridge in honor of those security guards.

And so congratulations are in order to the Navy SEALs who captured the mastermind behind this ambush and the murder of these four Americans. We should be celebrating this achievement, and these Navy SEALs should be getting medals for their work doing what we've asked them to do. But that's not what is happening, Mr. Speaker. The military has decided to court-martial the Navy SEALs. It seems that this terrorist, Abed, claimed that he was punched in the mouth by the Navy SEALs, and he wants justice. He wants American justice.

You know, it's the same mouth that preaches hate in the name of religion, the same mouth that demands death to America, the same big mouth that ordered the murder of the four Americans. So the SEALs must answer to this accusation by a terrorist that they captured. After all, the terrorist must have some of that American justice. Next thing we know, we'll be giving these terrorists on the battlefield their Miranda warnings. Oh, we already do that.

Well, then after that, they're going to want to be tried in civilian courts in the United States. But we're already doing that as well. Have we gone a bit too far with the kid glove treatment that we treat these madmen, these terrorists, these people who kill Americans?

The nation is at war, Mr. Speaker. You know, punching occurs in war.

Shooting also occurs in war. Instead of a court-martial, the SEALs should be dispatched to go and capture another terrorist. But that's not happening. They are going to be court-martialed because some terrorist supposedly got a bruised mouth.

The SEALs in question are Matthew McCabe, he's a special operations petty officer second class; Petty Officer Jonathan Keefe; and Petty Officer Julio Huertas. They are going to be court-martialed because some terrorist alleges they got punched in the mouth.

It's ironic, Mr. Speaker, that the SEALs will be arraigned next Monday, December 7. December 7, everybody in the United States Navy remembers that day. See, it's been 68 years since the Navy and America was attacked on December the 7th at Pearl Harbor. And now these individuals, ironically, will be arraigned that day.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine someone in World War II, a soldier, a marine, somebody in the United States Navy, being tried for punching an enemy combatant in the mouth during World War II? You know, we should be commending the Navy SEALs for doing the job that we've asked them to do. They're the best that we have in this country. We've asked them to do tough assignments, and we should be supporting them. The terrorists ought to be on trial for murdering Americans. And the Navy SEALs ought to be getting medals for doing what we have asked them to do. And I say congratulations to the Navy SEALs for a job well done.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRANSPARENCY AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke does not want us to know any the details of the Fed's secret operations. This position is not surprising and has been typical of all central bank chairmen. Bernanke's stated goal is "to design a system of financial oversight that will provide a robust framework for preventing future crises."

During its 96 years of existence, the Federal Reserve has played havoc with

our economy and brought great suffering to millions through unemployment and price escalation. And it has achieved what only a central bank can: A steady depreciation of our currency. Today's dollar is now worth 4 cents, compared to the dollar entrusted to the Federal Reserve in 1913. Ninety-six years should have been plenty of time for the Fed to come up with a plan for preventing economic crises.

Since the Fed is the source of all economic downturns, it's impossible for any central banker to regulate in such a manner to prevent the problems that are predictable consequences of his own monetary management. The Federal Reserve fixes interest rates at levels inevitably lower than those demanded by the market. This manipulation is a form of price control through credit expansion, and is the ultimate cause of business cycles and so many of our economic problems, generating the malinvestment, excessive debt, stock, bond, commodity, and housing bubbles.

The Federal Reserve's monetary inflation, indeed, does push the CPI upward, but concentrating on the government's reports of the CPI and the PPI is nothing more than the distraction from the other harm done by the Federal Reserve's effort at central economic planning through secret monetary policy operations. Real inflation, the expansion of our money supply, is greatly undercounted by these indices. In response to our latest financial crisis, the Federal Reserve turned on its printing press and literally doubled the monetary base. This staggering creation of dollars has yet to be reflected in many consumer prices, but will ultimately hit the middle class and poor with a cruel devaluation of their savings and real earnings.

The Fed has clearly failed on its mandate to maintain full employment and price stability. It's time to find out what's going on. Instead of assuming responsibility for the Fed's role in the crisis, Bernanke brags about, "arresting" the crisis.

I would suggest to Mr. Bernanke that it's too early to brag. Bernanke decries any effort to gain transparency of the Fed's actions to find out just who gets bailed out and who is left to fail. Instead, he proposes giving even more power to the Fed to regulate the entire financial system.

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What he does not recognize—nor does he want to admit—is that he is talking about symptoms while ignoring the source of the crisis: the Federal Reserve itself. More regulations will never compensate for all the distortion and excesses caused by monetary inflation and artificially low interest rates. Regulation distracts from the real cause while further interfering with the market forces, thus guaranteeing that the recession will become much deeper and prolonged.

Chairman Bernanke's argument for Fed secrecy is a red herring. It serves

to distract so the special interests that benefit from the Fed policy never become known to the public. Who can possibly buy this argument that this secrecy is required to protect the people from political influence?

My bill, H.R. 1207, has nothing to do with interference with monetary policy. This was explicitly stated in the amendment voted on in the Financial Services Committee. Bernanke's argument for protecting the independence of the Fed is his argument for protecting the secrecy of the Fed. Chairman Bernanke concludes that "America needs a strong"—think cartel—"nonpolitical"—think Goldman Sachs—"and independent"—think secret—"central bank with the tools to promote financial stability, in the midst of a horrendous financial crisis, and to help steer our economy to recovery without inflation."

This belief is a dream that one day will become a nightmare for all Americans unless we come to our senses, stop our wild spending, runaway deficits, printing press money, massive bureaucratic regulations, and our unnecessary world empire. A crucial step towards fixing these problems will be transparency of the Federal Reserve.

CAP-AND-TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, this House passed what is known as cap-and-trade legislation which would place limits on the amount of CO₂ that could be emitted into the atmosphere. And the reason given for the need for this legislation is that man-caused global warming poses a very grave threat to the future of our planet.

We have been told that the debate is over, that the science is incontrovertible. We've been told that this action must be taken to save our world, even though it would threaten our economy and cause redistribution of wealth from our Nation to others and would lead to massive job losses and outsourcing from the United States to other nations. Particularly hard hit would be industry, agriculture, and States that rely upon coal for electricity production.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against cap-and-trade because I wasn't convinced of the problem and because the solution to the perceived problem would cause further economic devastation to my constituents. I am from Michigan, where we currently have the highest unemployment in the United States. We also derive two-thirds of our electricity from coal, and our number one industry is industrial manufacturing, and our number two industry is agriculture.

If cap-and-trade were to pass, Michigan's economy would be devastated, but we were told that it had to happen because the alternative is worse.

Well, Mr. Speaker, a few weeks back, a series of emails from within the world's foremost climate change research facility, the Hadley Climate Research Unit at Britain's University of East Anglia, were either hacked or they were leaked by a disillusioned insider, which has blown away the scientific foundation for the manmade global warming theory. It's being called Climategate.

Mr. Speaker, these troubling emails show that some of the most respected and quoted and public scientists used tricks to manipulate data, refused to release the data that is the foundation for their research, and they've attempted to silence any critics of their hypothesis and even expressed dismay that they could not explain recent cooling taking place across the globe. And these scientists seemed to have allies cooperating with them, including some here in the United States.

It has become very clear that the science is, in fact, not settled, that the debate is very much alive, and that the tactics and methods used by the most trusted scientists have, in fact, very serious problems.

One email said this, which suggests a manipulation of data: "I've just completed Mike's trick of adding in the real temps to each series for the last 20 years and for 1961 for Keith's to hide the decline." Hide the decline? An inconvenient truth that temperatures were declining required a trick to hide it.

And then another email expresses frustration that temperatures are actually going down: "The fact is that we can't account for the lack of warming at the moment, and it is a travesty that we can't."

Mr. Speaker, another email exposes the attempts to silence dissent: "I think we need to stop considering 'Climate Research' as a legitimate peer-reviewed journal. Perhaps we should encourage our colleagues in the climate research community to no longer submit to or cite papers in this journal."

Well, that is absolutely wonderful. Call those who disagree with their hypotheses cranks because they have not been published in peer-reviewed journals, and then when they were, to discredit the journal.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the fix is in. And most troubling of all is the destruction of raw source data that could be used to verify their work. The leader of the CRU for years refused to release source data, and now they claim the data was "lost." It sounds to me like the old elementary school excuse, "The dog ate my homework." That excuse didn't work for third graders and it certainly is unacceptable from scientists who are asking us to upend our economy.

And even worse, emails exist that suggest that the data wasn't lost but instructs scientists to destroy data which was subject to Britain's freedom of information laws. And that is not just bad science; that is a criminal act.