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Letters to the Editor

Telling the Truth Earns You Trust

THERE ARE two ways to look at Rep. Heather Wilson's claim that the Congress and "we the people" should not know the truth about pre-war intelligence. She said it would be a "disservice" and a "distraction."

She is right in the short run as exposing the truth allows al-Jazeera to spread it among Arab nations as propaganda. Even that might have a benefit of having them say we can trust them to tell the truth.

In the long run, it is better to have the truth out. ... First, nations will respect us more for living up to our constitutional principle that the Congress and the people should know what is going on so that wise laws can be passed and the people can vote intelligently based on adequate knowledge. Second, as President Ronald Reagan said, "trust but verify."

The Congress, the administration, Democrat or Republican, must earn our trust by dedication to the truth.

ALEX PORTZ

Magdalena

Be American 1st, Republican Later

I WAS MORTIFIED to read Rep. Heather Wilson's statement that a House investigation of the intelligence lead-up to the war "would be distracting." There are times when politicians are Americans first and Republicans after. In Wilson's case, she's a Republican first and foremost. ...

She is too busy defending the administration and not at all concerned with more than 2,100 military deaths in Iraq. And she is certainly not at all concerned about the deaths of innocent civilians, women and children brought about by a war based upon a lack of intelligence and a much greater lack of presidential wisdom. ...

IRWIN L. HOFFMAN

Albuquerque

Reasons Behind Invasion False

... WE WERE specifically told that the justification for invading Iraq was that Iraq had massive amounts of weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein had direct ties to al-Qaida. Neither weapons of mass destruction nor direct ties between Saddam and al-Qaida have been found. This being the case, the invasion of Iraq was and continues to be

unjustified.

Wilson is aware that our own Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories played a role in the 2001 analysis of whether Saddam was attempting to acquire nuclear weapons. She also knows that the Sandia and Los Alamos analysts were part of a team of DOE nuclear experts who concluded that the high-strength aluminum tubes that Iraq wanted to buy were probably not intended for nuclear weapons manufacturing but for use in non-nuclear battlefield rockets.

In spite of this information, President Bush told the United Nations Security Council that Iraq had made several attempts to buy high-strength aluminum tubes used to enrich uranium for a nuclear weapon. Wilson continues to support and defend the case for the unjustified invasion of Iraq. ...

NAHUM CASTILLO

Albuquerque

Wilson Had Time For Clinton Probe

I AM APPALLED that Rep. Heather Wilson feels that finding out the truth about whether the Bush administration "cooked" the intelligence in the run up to the Iraq war is a "distraction."

There is ample evidence to suggest he did— from the Downing Street memo, to the comments made by former Secretary of State Colin Powell's chief of staff, to evidence that has come out of the Valerie Plame investigation.

Wilson didn't seem to find it a "distraction" to investigate Bill Clinton at a time when we were militarily involved in Bosnia. Does not the ultimate sacrifice paid by more than 2,100 young men and women deserve— nay demand— anything short of the truth? ...

KYLE NEWMAN

Albuquerque

Janet's Breast Vs. Iraq Intelligence

I FIND IT extraordinary that Rep. Heather Wilson can support a full investigation into the possibility that Janet Jackson may have purposefully exposed America to the sight of a naked female breast, but she considers investigating whether or not our president led our country into a war based on faulty intelligence a "distraction."

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, Wilson seems to believe the committee has more important things to do than investigate past intelligence failures. Perhaps this is an example of the clear analysis that said committee brought to bear on the intelligence data it analyzed before we invaded Iraq.

FRANCIS C. HARDING

Albuquerque

Rep. in Need Of A History Lesson

"THOSE WHO cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." This oft-quoted maxim of George Santayana has been dismissed by Rep. Heather Wilson, who believes we should not review the intelligence basis which led, or misled, this country's decision makers to initiate the war on Iraq. ...

I'm stunned to find that a graduate of one of our nation's military academies and a member of the House Intelligence Committee places so little value on the study of history, even recent history.

With this sort of tunnel vision, we seem to be on collision courses with Iran and North Korea at the least, as well as any other country that doesn't subscribe to our way of governance. Let's hope that the general electorate takes a more intelligent view of history when we have another opportunity to select our leaders.

RAYMOND A. BRANDWEIN

Albuquerque

Border Fence A GOP Distraction

SO THE REPUBLICANS don't want the rest of us looking in "the rearview mirror" at their own atrocious record on Iraq, according to Reps. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., and Peter Hoekstra, R-Mich.

These people charge their critics with what they themselves are frantically engaged in doing— finding a domestic issue to latch onto that they can use to distract us all from examining and fixing blame for the ruinous, increasingly useless, and endless quagmire of a war that their party deliberately stampeded us into. Building a Berlin wall on the Mexican border seems to be the pick of the moment. ...

SUZY CHARNAS

Albuquerque

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