

Re: Copper theft

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- *From:* kensmith@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Ken Smith)
 - *Date:* Wed, 27 Sep 2006 19:15:49 +0000 (UTC)
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In article <1159376705.514474.271050@xx>, <dagmargoodboat@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Ken Smith wrote:

[...]

You need to go back and read the site again if that's all you found. There very first item I looked at had this:

**** Begin quote ****

"I would urge [...] [E]mergency continuation of trade benefits to Haiti, African and other developing countries is more important than politics.

Note that he is suggesting an action and referring to the lack of a previous action.

Urging a particular vote on an obscure measure

It is only obscure to those who weren't following the issue. He is suggesting an action and stating a level of importance. Those following the argument would know both sides of the issue.

[...]

I'm sorry, but trade incentives to Haiti just isn't one of the defining issues of our time, where the Democrats are conspicuously absent.

The trade policy with respect to Haiti is a very important issue with respect to how the US is seen from the outside world and specifically in the developing world. Since a large part of the problem the US has with terrorists springs from the developing world, the US overlooks this issue to it peril.

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Since everyone already knows that the reason you put overseers on something is because the people are not doing what they were told to do, I guess they felt no need to state this.

But I need to hear it, because I don't see how adding more overseers will reduce our trade deficit,

If people are not doing their jobs, this is the reason to appoint more overseers. He is making the charge that they are not doing their jobs by implication.

[...]

In short, this list of picayune "accomplishments,"

The Republicans have complete control. There will be no accomplishments without their agreement and the Republicans do not agree.

They want to fire Rumsfeld. That would be a big step forwards.

But we don't need to "take steps forward"

Yes, you do need to make that step forward. If you are running a Taxi company that is losing money because one of the drivers keeps crashing the cars, you fire that driver so he can't crash more cars and then you set about fixing the cars. While Rumsfeld is still in place, he will keep screwing things up faster than they can be fixed.

good measure. The question is: once you've fired Rumsfeld, what is it that you'd have his successor do? Democrats need to explain *that*. Propose what we should do differently, if anything—that would be most helpful.

Murtha dis suggest what to do different. He got misquoted and mischaracterized in the media but there is one example. Several democrats have suggested increasing number of people in Iraq and concentrating on restoring infrastructure.

Selecting a whipping boy fixes nothing.

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But getting rid of the guy who is messing things up prevents, or at least reduces the odds of, further problems that need to solve.

Is the logic "We're in a war
so—let's fight with each other?"

No, the logic is: we are in a war that was a bad idea badly implemented that is still being poorly run so lets get rid of the guy who has made the long list of mistakes.

Fire Rummie and the insurgents will
quit?

No, we will only have the insurgents to worry about not more screw ups by Rummy.

Encourage the enemy by telling him we're fickle, undisciplined
and impatient, and will leave when the fancy passes?"

No, "scare the pant off them" by making it look like we finally will set
politics aside and put someone competent in charge on our side.

Murtha
made a suggestion some months ago about moving the US troops over the
horizon so they would be less visible.

I didn't hear it,

How the heck could you miss it? It was all over the news or at least the
mischaracterization was all over the news. His actual statement was in a
few places.

[...]

I understood Murtha's position to be that Iraqis should be abandoned
to their own fate.

No, that is what the Neocon spinners called it among other things. His
idea was to remove the irritant of what looks like an American occupation
but continue to support the elected government.

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That's immoral.

It was not his position, but consider the idea that there will be a blood bath when the US leaves and the later it happens to more blood. In that case pulling out sooner reduces the number of dead Iraqies. If US doesn't institute a draft or increase the pay and troop levels, eventually, the US will have to pull out. The Republicans have refused to give army the budget they feel they need to maintain the war.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nationworld/bal-te.military25sep25001517,0,1359119.story?coll=bal-nationworld>

The result will be that the US will have to pull out or leave the nation unprotected against other threats.

[....]

Maybe, but I sure couldn't tell you what. What I see is Democrats spuriously criticising the President for gasoline prices (which he can't control)

But he said he could when he was running for office and I predict he will take credit when they do come down.

, for the economy (calling it bad when it isn't)

The US is engaged in record levels of deficit spending and has low interest rates. These both stimulate the economy. It is like pushing the gas pedal on your car all the way to the floor and thinking that getting up to 45 MPH is good. It may be faster than you can walk but you would still know there was something wrong with the car.

I see a determination to resist the President in everything, which is too bad. Resist when he's wrong, but concur when he's right, or you lose credibility. Don't waste it.

That is in fact what they have been doing. Only the cases when they resist make the news. "Today there was no car wreck at the intersection of First and Main" is never reported in the news.

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Meanwhile, government spending is increasing at a compound rate greater than 7%. I've heard Democrats complain about this (rightly), except their criticism is that it isn't enough!

I have seen them complain that it is too much and seriously misdirected and that no where near enough is being spent on the troops. They aren't all singing from the same sheet.

Have you seen the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) scores from New York city?

It is an unfunded mandate. NCLB also works against teaching things that can't be tested with a multiple choice. Geometry classed no longer include the issue of proofs. A big part of the reason for teaching geometry was to teach critical thinking skills. These are no longer being taught.

They're appalling -- we're in danger of becoming a dumb-ocracy. *This* is a real problem that needs real solution--and not just more money. Dumping money won't fix it--we've been doing that.

Actually, no you haven't been dumping money in. You've been taking money from other places and moving it there. The result is a bunch of kids that think getting the right answers on a test is the goal.

Now retired, former Federal Reserve chief Greenspan warns that Medicare, not Social Security,

"Now"?????!!!!!! That has been known for years. The Republicans have discredited themselves on the Social Security reform they attempted so now they can't touch Medicare.

[...]

I see no mess.

You have blinders on.

The economy is great.

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No it isn't see above.

The war is expensive,

And will get more so before it gets less so.

but
militarily brilliant.

No, it is a collection of blunders.

It **is** an experiment in a more limited warfare,
wherein innocents are spared the brunt of their fate in more usual
wars.

See Vietnam for the previous "experiment".

That may be ill-advised, but the criticisms I see from Democrats
is that the war isn't limited enough

The war was purely optional. It did have to happen at all. Now that you
are in anything less than winning it is a defeat. The Neocons have set
the US up to loose.

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kensmith@xxxxxxxxx forging knowledge

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