

## **ECONOMY, IRAQ, INTERTWINED, SAYS PORTER**

Speaking today from his home, Dr. Steven Porter, independent candidate for Congress in the third district of Pennsylvania, commented on the recent national polls in the race for President. “It seems, according to the surveys being done now,” said Porter, “that the public is more concerned with the state of the economy than with the war in Iraq.

“What I think needs to be said,” he went on, “is that the two are intimately connected. Often we seem to disconnect one event or one set of circumstances from another. I guess in part it is a product of the way we learn. Math class is separate from Social Studies, English is separate from Science. But in the real world, things frequently impact one another, and surely the wasted billions in Iraq have drained our economy and contributed to what appears to be an on-coming recession.

“The policies of **both major parties** in supporting the war have really benefited only the war industry which supports so many members of Congress. In the long run, wars like Iraq produce little, if anything, of permanent value. The bomb once exploded is not a seed for growth. The human life once extinguished will never contribute to society. Wars today, unlike many wars of bygone eras, are not sources of new raw materials or new labor supplies. More often than not, they are fought for the gain of a few. They are enormous wastes of money and lives.

“Iraq has drained our government’s resources from other things so much more necessary to our well-being: new sources of fuel, better health care, a more secure Social Security system, etc. Had we never invaded Iraq, think of what the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on that war might have done to create whole new energy industries or new treatments for the sick, or a better life for our seniors. But now, with our economy in dangerous shape, the only thing the Bush machine can do is to sell another \$20 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia, as if that will really make the world safer.

“We have been deluded into a condition of permanent conflict, and that condition cannot contribute meaningfully to a vibrant and forward-looking economy, certainly not as meaningfully as the education of our citizens, the development of peace-time technologies, or the eradicating of diseases which rob our citizens of so many years of productivity.

“The world is synergistic, and to govern effectively, we need people in office as well as people in the media who understand the interrelationship between seemingly disparate forces and act on that understanding.”