

## CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS AS INEFFECTUAL ON IRAQ AS REPUBLICANS

Speaking from his home today, Dr. Steven Porter, who opposes Republican Congressman Phil English in PA-03, berated the congressional members of his own party for their ineffectual handling of Bush and the Iraq war.

“They not only caved in to Bush on the spending bill,” said Porter, “they do not have the fortitude to do what is necessary to save our troops and innocent Iraqis from further harm. Biden wants to ‘wear down’ 17 Republican Senators until they demand benchmarks from the President. Edwards wants to cut off Iraq war funds. Hillary Clinton and Obama voted against the funding bill knowing it was going to pass so that they could play to the anti-war voters. All of it is a horse that won’t run. All of it perpetuates the slaughter.

“Bush and the neo-cons aren’t going to change. This war is and always has been about oil, greed, power, and control for them. Hoping for any kind of epiphany is silliness. Cutting off funding only hurts our troops because Bush is just cruel and stubborn enough to leave them in the field unprotected. Wearing down 17 Senators will take time—time which will cost more lives.

“The answer is to get rid of Cheney and Bush via impeachment, and to do it quickly. They have trashed the Constitution over and over again, and the counts against them have been documented in the double digits by some of the best legal minds of the nation. Once rid of them, the next step would be to set up a three- or four-region political settlement in Iraq where Kurds, Shia, and Sunni have autonomous control and where oil revenues are equitably shared.

“Then invite the international community to share in the rebuilding of Iraq and in securing the regions against Al Qaeda as our troops reduce their burden and are brought home. I am sure that once the warring factions in Iraq are guaranteed autonomy, they themselves will take the initiative to keep the terrorists from destroying the country further. Giving the international community some partnership in the rebuilding of Iraq would provide an economic justification for an international peace-keeping force.

“Beyond this, moving quickly through international agencies (NATO, the UN, etc.) both to create a two-state solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and to reduce the poverty and despair which fosters terrorism would be the next important steps in the process of a lasting Middle East peace.

“Finally, a concerted effort on the part of the Democratically-controlled Congress to have all federal elections publicly funded would end the special interest games which lie at the heart of so many of our problems.

“All this would be possible for representatives who are caring statesmen and women instead of the usual run of politician. All this would be possible if a brain-dead, heartless media would begin to educate the American people instead of titillate them. All of this

would be possible if the American people would put down their sports pages long enough to think.”