

Fierce Debate in Congress on Iraq War

Faceoff comes four years after battle began

(AP) -- House members fiercely debated Iraq war policy Tuesday in an emotional and historic floor faceoff over a conflict that Speaker Nancy Pelosi lambasted as a U.S. commitment with "no end in sight."

The confluence of arguments came as the war nears the four-year point with over 3,100 American deaths, billions spent and lawmakers grappling what position to take on President Bush's decision to send an additional 21,500 troops into battle.

"The American people have lost faith in President Bush's course of action in Iraq and they are demanding a new direction," said Pelosi, a California Democrat who became the first female House speaker af-

ter her party took control of both the House and Senate in the fall elections.

A resolution putting the House on record as against Bush's expansion of troop strength was expected to be approved by week's end. It was nonbinding, but nevertheless unmistakable in its message. "No more blank checks for President Bush on Iraq," Pelosi declared.

Republicans, now the minority party on the Hill for the time in 12 years, issued impassioned warnings of the consequences of undermining the president's policies in Iraq. "We will embolden terrorists in every corner in the world. We will give Iran free access to the Middle East," said Republican leader John



Iraqis chant slogans while protesting Tuesday after British troops arrested a government power distribution engineer in Basra in southern Iraq. (AP photo)

Boehner, R-Ohio. "And who doesn't believe the terrorists will just follow our troops home?"

Democrats called on several freshmen who served in the military to make their argument

against further commitments in Iraq. Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Pa.,

a captain in the Army 82nd Airborne, said that "three years after I left Iraq, Americans are still running convoys up and down Ambush Alley and securing Iraqi street corners."

Bush's decision last month to deploy an additional 21,500 troops to help stop sectarian violence has quickly become a flashpoint for critics of the war in Congress. There are currently about 141,000 American troops in Iraq and 27,000 in Afghanistan.

The nonbinding measure states simply that the House "will continue to support and protect" troops serving in Iraq but that it "disapproves" of the troop buildup.

While such legislation can neither force Bush's hand nor bring the war to a close, the vote could be a politically embarrassing rejection of his Iraq policy and help Democrats reassert congressional oversight of the war.

Father Says Son was Tortured to Death

continued from Front

James P. Chasse Jr. died last September after he was arrested following a foot chase by officers who said they thought he was on drugs or drunk after urinating in public.

Chasse, 42, suffered from schizophrenia. During the arrest, he suffered broken ribs that caused massive internal bleeding.

"He was a gentle and a kind man who was in good physical health ... but his life was brought to a tragic end," Tom Steenson, the attorney for the family, said at a Thursday news conference.

A grand jury found no criminal wrongdoing by the two Portland police officers and a Multnomah County sheriff's deputy.

But Steenson accused the three officers - Officer Christopher Humphreys, Sgt. Kyle Nice and Deputy Bret Burton - of "a deliberate cover up."

After realizing there were many witnesses, the officers told them that Chasse was on drugs, had been convicted on cocaine charges, was a transient and had no identification - "none of which was true," Steenson said.

The attorney said Chasse was walking in the neighborhood where

he lived on a Sunday afternoon, carrying a sandwich and some comic books in his backpack, when he was confronted by the three officers.

"Over the ensuing few minutes, and again without cause or provocation, James was repeatedly and viciously punched, struck, kicked and kneed in the head, the back, the ribs and the chest. He was also repeatedly Tasered," he said.

Eleven of 12 ribs in the left side of his chest along the back were fractured, leaving sharp edges that caused the bleeding, Steenson said.

But Chasse could have survived the injuries if he had received prompt medical attention from the

officers or from the paramedics who were called to the scene, the family's attorney said.

But none of the officers, the ambulance crew or deputies at the jail where Chasse was taken after his arrest provided any medical assistance - "not any medical help whatsoever," Steenson said.

Chasse died while Humphreys and Burton were taking him to a hospital in a patrol car after jail deputies refused to accept him because he had gone into convulsions and stopped breathing, according to the complaint.

William McCall is a reporter for Associated Press in Portland.



Big Night at the Grammys

Ludacris and Mary J. Blige perform the song 'Runaway Love' at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles. It was a big night for women, with Blige, the Dixie Chicks and Carrie Underwood winning some of the most prestigious awards. (AP photo)

CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT GAMBLING?

Frenzy over Anna Nicole's Death

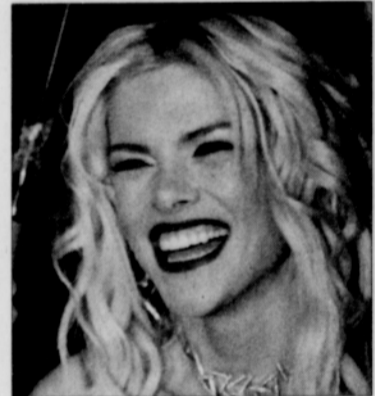
Web, blogs express grief

Fans of Anna Nicole Smith aren't making pilgrimages to the place where she spent her final days. They're not leaving flowers. They're not gathering in crowds to express their grief. Instead, emotions are being expressed in a way as uniquely modern as Smith's fame — on blogs, Web pages and online message boards where true fans battle naysayers to get their voices heard.

"I loved her," fans beam. "I miss her," others write. "She was beautiful," they say.

The 39-year-old former Playboy Playmate died unexpectedly on Thursday during a stay in Hollywood, Fla.

On Sunday, MSNBC reported Smith had had at least two surgeries since giving birth to her daughter five months ago, one of which was breast surgery. Sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Smith had been



Anna Nicole Smith

recuperating from breast surgery at the time of her death and was prescribed multiple painkillers for her recovery.

The medical examiner who performed an autopsy on Smith's body said it could take weeks to determine the cause of death. No illegal drugs were discovered in Smith's room at the hotel where she collapsed Thursday. However, MSNBC reported that about 10 different medications were found in Smith's hotel room closet, and open prescription bottles were found on the hotel room nightstand.

Marijuana Eases Foot Pain

HIV-related study finds

(AP) -- Smoking marijuana eased HIV-related pain in some patients in a small study that nevertheless represented one of the few rigorous attempts to find out if the drug has medicinal benefits.

The study, conducted at San Francisco General Hospital from 2003 to 2005 and published Monday in the journal *Neurology*, involved 50 patients suffering from HIV-related foot pain known as

peripheral neuropathy. There are no drugs specifically approved to treat that kind of pain.

Half the patients received marijuana, while the other 25 received placebo cigarettes that lacked the drug's active ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol. Scientists said the study was the first one published that used a comparison group, which is generally considered the gold standard for scientific research.

Many critics of smoked marijuana agree THC has promise as a painkiller, but they argue the smoke itself is harmful.

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